Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition

The DRHC is led by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and includes nearly 800 local, state, and national organizations. DHRC is focused on ensuring that federal disaster housing recovery efforts reach all households, including those with the lowest incomes who are often hardest-hit by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover.

Read about DHRC’s top priorities for the next disaster supplemental.
Speakers:

**Local Perspectives**
- **Ilene Jacobs**, Director of Litigation, Advocacy, & Training, *California Rural Legal Assistance*
- **Leslie Powell-Boudreaux**, Executive Director, *North Florida Legal Services*
- **Lesley Albritton**, Directing Attorney of Disaster Recovery, *Legal Aid of North Carolina*
- **Samuel Gunther**, Executive Director, *North Carolina Housing Coalition*
- **Amelia Adams**, Equity Analyst, *Texas Housers*
- **Adi Martinez**, Executive Director, *Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia, Inc.*

**National Perspectives**
- **Sarah Mickelson**, Senior Director of Public Policy, *National Low Income Housing Coalition*
- **Laura Esquivel**, Director of National Advocacy, *Hispanic Federation*
- **Marion McFadden**, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Senior Advisor of Resilience, *Enterprise Community Partners*
Local Perspectives

Focus: Failure to address the immediate and medium-term housing needs of disaster survivors; the difficulties low income people face in receiving the assistance they need to get back on their feet; racial disparities in disaster recovery; and the lack of meaningful public input.
Focus: Immediate housing needs of low income survivors - including vulnerable populations - impacted by the current California fires; ongoing challenges for those impacted by the 2017 California fires.
Leslie Powell-Boudreaux
Executive Director
Legal Services of North Florida
leslie@lsnf.org
(850)385-9007

Focus: Widespread displacement of low income people after Hurricane Michael in the Florida Panhandle.
Lesley Albritton
Directing Attorney of Disaster Recovery
Legal Aid of North Carolina
LesleyA@legalaidnc.org
(252) 758-0113

Focus: Displacement of low income people after Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas.
Samuel Gunther  
Executive Director  
North Carolina Housing Coalition  
sgunter@nchousing.org  
(919) 881-0707

Focus: Lack of capacity at the state and local level following Hurricane Florence in 2018, and ongoing recovery challenges from Hurricane Matthew in 2016.
Amelia Adams
Equity Analyst
Texas Housers
amelia@texashousing.org
(512)477-8910

Focus: Racial disparities in the federal disaster recovery response after Hurricane Harvey, and the impact on people of color and their communities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>Applicant Count</th>
<th>Ineligibility Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over $75K/yr</td>
<td>106,547</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between $60-75K/yr</td>
<td>37,622</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between $45-60K/yr</td>
<td>45,701</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between $30-45K/yr</td>
<td>60,829</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between $15-30K/yr</td>
<td>60,435</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $15K/yr</td>
<td>60,546</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Not Reported</td>
<td>70,378</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>451,058</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Texas Housers analysis of data from FEMA FOIA request, February 2018
Cities Eligible for Regional Harvey Aid

Source: CityLab, 2018
Extreme inequality in funding per impacted person as a result of poor methodology for assessing the need for buyouts.
Adi Martinez-Roman
Executive Director
Fundación Fondo de Acceso a la Justicia, Inc.
adimartinez.ffaj@gmail.com

Focus: Low income survivors who are being denied FEMA assistance after Hurricane Maria, and the lack of meaningful public participation.
Some info…

- Damages calculated – 90,000 millions (FEMA) / 139,000 millions (PR Gov.) – Authorized funds – 33 to 45,000 millions
- Over 1.107 million FEMA applications (by April)
  - 462,000 approved (by September)
  - More than 60% denied (more than 600,000)
- Only 43,000 appeals – of those 75% denied
  - More than 550,000 people gave up
- Around 78,000 due to “Ownership not verified”
- “Your Home Reborn” – ”fixed” 68,654 homes
- Blue Roofs installed – 59,469 – Tarps provided – 126,000
Issues still faced...

- Funds obligated are being used very slowly
  - FEMA denials
  - CDBG-DR funds - no transfer yet
- "Ownership not Verified" denials - approved form - FEMA refusing to notify
- High number of "Your House Reborn" claims
- CDBG-DR - concerns of low income communities
  - Mitigation as a priority - processes for relocation
  - Participation and the Advisory Committee
National Perspectives

Focus: Congress should hold oversight hearings and hold FEMA accountable for its repeated failures to address the housing needs of low income survivors; Congress should pass legislation to ensure survivors get the housing assistance they need to get back on their feet, to ensure that the recovery process moves more quickly, and to guard against the racial disparities in disaster recovery.
Sarah Mickelson
Senior Policy Director
National Low Income Housing Coalition

smickelson@nlihc.org
202-834-5178

Focus: Congress should direct FEMA to activate proven solutions, like the Disaster Housing Assistance Program.

Focus: Congress should enact the “Housing Victims of Major Disasters Act of 2018,” introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), and/or the “Disaster Housing Assistance Act,” introduced by Senator Bill Nelson.
Laura Esquivel
Director of National Advocacy
Hispanic Federation
lesquivel@hispanicfederation.org
202.887.4977

Focus: Congress should ensure that Puerto Rican survivors receive the assistance to which they are entitled, and enact the “Housing Victims of Major Disasters Act of 2018,” introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY).

Focus: Congress must provide oversight of FEMA and demand greater transparency.
Focus: Congress should enact reform legislation to increase the ability of low income survivors to receive assistance, to target more resources to low and moderate-income communities, and to mitigate future disasters.
Questions?
More information about the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition is available at: https://nlihc.org/issues/disaster

Read DHRC’s top policy priorities at: https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/DHRC-Priorities_Disaster-Recovery-Package.pdf