



TALKING POINTS

HOUSING VICTIMS OF MAJOR DISASTERS ACT

1. HUD's Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP) plays a critical role in providing safe, decent, and affordable homes to some of our nation's most vulnerable individuals and families after a disaster.
2. DHAP provides displaced households with temporary rental assistance that is capped at a reasonable amount and lessens over time to help families prepare to assume full responsibility for their housing costs at the end of the program.
3. All families receiving DHAP rental assistance are provided case management services to help find permanent housing solutions, secure employment, and connect to public benefits.
4. Without DHAP, people with low incomes face significant barriers when accessing FEMA's transitional shelter assistance and often have little choice but to move into uninhabitable or overcrowded homes, stay at shelters, or sleep in their cars or on the streets.
5. After Hurricane Katrina, it became clear that HUD - not FEMA - was best suited to oversee and administer federal disaster housing assistance to the lowest-income people.
6. FEMA must first enter into an interagency agreement (IAA) with HUD before HUD can stand up its DHAP program. FEMA has the authority to enter into this agreement without any further Congressional or state action.
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ASK:

Congress should include language in its next emergency supplemental spending bill directing FEMA to enter into an IAA with HUD to ensure that the DHAP program is set up quickly. Or, Congress can directly appropriate funds to the DHAP program.



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