

Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition Recent Successes



2024

- FEMA expanded the amount of Individual Assistance (IA) accessible to disaster survivors.
- DHRC member Legal Aid of NC settled a civil rights complaint with its state government over barriers preventing low-income heirs' property owners from accessing disaster recovery funds, resulting in the most flexible long-term disaster recovery policy in the nation.

2023

- FEMA extended assistance periods for Hurricane Ida Survivors in Louisiana.
- The Disaster Assistance Simplification Act was approved in the U.S. Senate. The bill would create a single application for all federal disaster programs.
- DHRC members in Houston successfully led the push for greater flood mitigation infrastructure for some of the city's most disaster-prone neighborhoods.

2022

- HUD created the Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH) program to provide displaced disaster survivors, particularly those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with longer-term direct rental assistance and supportive services.
- Congress enacted the Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act of 2022 to create a hazard assessment rating system for census tracts across the country.
- The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) released a landmark report, "Civil Rights and Protections during the Federal Response to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria."

2021

- FEMA reformed long-standing policies requiring title documentation for homeowners to apply for assistance. Title requirements prevented thousands of survivors from receiving assistance, especially homeowners of color and those impacted by Hurricane Maria.
- FEMA expanded and sustained the use of its Public Assistance program to convert hotels, motels, and similar facilities for use as non-congregate sheltering for those experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020

- The Trump administration released recovery funding to Puerto Rico after the administration delayed these resources following earthquakes on the island.
- HUD removed onerous restrictions on the use of Hurricane Maria-related disaster mitigation assistance in Puerto Rico.

2019

- The DHRC released a two-part report with Fair Share Housing Center outlining problems with the U.S.'s disaster recovery system and suggesting solutions. The reports were written with direct input from attendees at a DHRC convening in Houston.