

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Funder Briefing: #10

Date: January 28, 2013

Topic: FEMA's Long Term Recovery and Capacity Building Team (webinar)

Speakers: **Denise Gilliam**, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordination Unit - FEMA:

Charles Heltsley, Jr., Federal Disaster Recovery Officer – FEMA

FEMA Recovery Support Function Offices:

Emily Meyer – *Community Planning and Capacity Building*

Sarah Matthews Johnson – *Economics*

T.W. Theodore/Byron Mason – *Health and Social Services*

Victor Aldorado – *Housing*

Alicia Gould – *Infrastructure*

Donna Gill – *Natural and Cultural Resources*

Mike Foley – *Flood Mitigation*

HIGHLIGHTS

Representatives from all six [Recovery Support Functions](#) of FEMA's [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (NDRF) joined the call/webinar. The NDRF is a new concept FEMA is developing, based on learning after Hurricane Katrina and direct guidance from nonprofits and other disaster recovery agencies on the ground.

Key concepts for NDRF (Denise Gilliam and Charles Heltsley):

- **Phases:** Preparedness - building networks and partnerships; Short-Term - safe, sanitary and secure/out of harm's way; Intermediate - coordinating the "new normal"; Long-Term - working toward resiliency
- **Goals:** Unity of effort, Local partnerships, Building resilience and sustainability
- **Core concepts:** Working with leadership, identifying Local Disaster Recovery Managers; supporting planning, supporting organizational structure - six recovery support functions on duty, coordinating mission scoping assessments

Recovery Support Functions (RSF) and Recommendations for Funder Action

Community Planning and Capacity Building (Emily Meyer)

- This RSF is focused on municipalities' ability to plan for long term success - we help all communities across the state that have suffered impact from the storm by providing targeted technical assistance, coordination support; and direct planning support in the worst cases.
- Priorities include:
 - Impact on municipal tax revenue
 - Limited capability for municipal planning capacity
 - Large potential for abandonment and blight (insurance rates and lack of ability to move away)
 - Working with hazard mitigation
- Four ways the funding community can help:
 - Need for local disaster recovery managers - normal everyday staff don't have expertise or time

- Opportunities for micro-grants to design and execute charrettes on targeted issues
- Grants to help small businesses, nonprofits, individuals meet federal requirements for matching dollars for hazard mitigation
- Statewide grant writing workshops to help build capacity

Economics (Sarah Matthews Johnson)

- Access to capital for small business owners is the #1 issue
 - Funders could support riskier loans, or help support loan forgiveness, from micro-lenders, local banks, federal and state agencies that offer capital or other reimbursement programs.
 - Business assistance: for companies that need to rethink operations and marketing plans post-Sandy.
- Expanding business assistance to include entrepreneurship programs
- Supporting Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs); state DMOs have tiny budgets. They may not survive the summer: there's a general perception that NJ tourism isn't open for business, which is causing lots of damage even for the tourist areas that ARE open

Health and Social Services (T.W. Theodore/Byron Mason)

- Healthcare facilities - acute care hospitals, schools, need to be rebuilt with more resiliency
- Emerging issue: increases in behavioral health issues caused by, abuse, depression, substance abuse - starting to stress the current service providers
- Opportunity to rebuild the capability of the social service network throughout the state
- Need for special actions and programs by funders and nonprofits:
 - E.g. [The Healthcare Foundation of NJ](#) held a "Day of Health" event in January, providing screenings, flu shots, integrated medicine for stress reduction, support groups, etc. These events will continue for 6 months as the need was great.
- PTSD - FEMA is currently looking for data to confirm how big an issue it is and the best ways to address

Housing (Victor Aldorado)

- Major need for private sector/funder support for [Home Counseling](#) - help homeowners understand what's going on with their biggest assets (Home Counselors are HUD approved & trained);
- Home Counselors could be a great source for detailed assessment data, but they don't have the funding necessary to do that kind of data gathering at that level
- Sponsorships needed: NJ State Housing Disaster Task Force is working on housing expo symposium
- Detailed Housing Assessment - need block by block assessment to clearly identify displacement
- In VT, the [Stratton Foundation](#) provided funding for cost-share to individuals whose homes were destroyed so they could move out of harm's way - took on 25% of the cost

Infrastructure (Alicia Gould)

- There's a huge interdependence between transportation, energy, critical government facilities, communications and flood control measures. Funders could support resiliency and energy efficient building and education on sea level rise/climate change to address the problems NJ faced, including:
 - Power outages had a huge effect on every other area listed above.
 - Petroleum distribution - companies couldn't get key employees to work because of gas shortages
 - Dunes and berms were decimated
 - Communications systems failed or were never in place
 - Waste water treatment plants were inoperable and discharged untreated sewage into waterways
 - Transportation was offline - rails, bridges, Holland tunnel

- Other partners include a Port Authority liaison, American Planning Association, Regional Plan Association, Rutgers School of Planning, NJ Future

Natural and Cultural Resources (Donna Gill)

- Cultural Resources:
 - [Small Business Association](#) (SBA) low interest loans can't be paid back
 - [NJ Center for Nonprofits](#) - working with Historical Properties office to inform institutions and get help
 - Cultural institutions have high level of damage - they need to apply to FEMA Public Assistance
- Natural Resources:
 - Height/size of dunes severely impacted, sand washed inland, damage to bays and wetlands, forest & wildlife
 - [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), [Barnegat Bay Partnership](#) - want to do a baseline study for wetlands

Flood Mitigation (Mike Foley)

- Help with communication between RSFs, Mitigation Operation Branch, and the state to incorporate in mitigation strategy
- New mapping of flood lines

FOLLOW UP

- FEMA requested to find out more info about Clinton Global initiative, specifically on any interactions or work that's being done right now.
- FEMA was asked if they could confirm the turnaround time on FEMA applications submitted by first responders

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Consultants [Witt Associates](#) operate in an advisory role. FEMA's partners are state agencies and [Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding](#) (GORR). Disaster recovery consultants for nonprofit community would be helpful.
- Governor's office will be designated to be working with the philanthropic community - FEMA's encouragement of a partnership between the philanthropic community and governor's office would be helpful
- CNJG members are welcome to visit Lincroft Joint Office

Beginning on the first Monday after Hurricane Sandy struck New Jersey, The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers began hosting weekly conference calls for grantmakers in-state and nationwide, facilitated by CNJG President Nina Stack, to discuss their response to Sandy and strategies facing NJ as a result of the storm. Each conference call briefing offered expert guest speakers who represented government agencies (FEMA, HUD, HHS, etc.), national philanthropic leaders, expert psychologists with experience in PTSD, planners and community redevelopment leaders, and representatives from NJ's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, among others. The twenty-five audio files and written summaries are available at: <http://cnjg.org/hurricane-sandy>