

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Funder Briefing: #3

Date: November 19, 2012

Topic: NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Speaker: **Cathy McCann**, President - NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters; Executive Director - Community FoodBank of NJ

HIGHLIGHTS

[NJ Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters \(VOAD\)](#)

The goal of NJ VOAD is to coordinate efforts so that NJ VOAD members, nonprofits and other agencies are not duplicating services. State partners include the Dept. of Human Services, the Office of Emergency Management (for assistance like providing escorts for volunteer organizations to deliver services into restricted areas), and FEMA [Volunteer Agency Liaisons](#) (VALs) like Kristy Ray, who joined the November 12th call. NJ VOAD Contact list is the best way to get in contact with the coordinating organizations by county. Some groups are also referred to as COADs - Community Organizations Active in Disasters.

- NJ VOAD also coordinates the independent volunteers who come to ensure help is distributed where it is most needed.
- NJ VOAD members usually meet once per quarter in person or via phone - in this instance they have been coordinating efforts since the Wednesday prior to Hurricane Sandy.
- NJ VOAD works with, or works to help set up Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) in counties, each of which has subcommittees that focus on areas such as unmet needs, fundraising, volunteer organizing, building, etc.
- **Funders can be instrumental in serving on or identifying candidates for LTRGs**
- Monies left after FEMA claims have been filed are directed to NJ VOAD and the LTRGs to help with any other unmet needs
- Not all NJ counties have LTRGs - Ocean County just formed one, there is a tri-county LTRG for Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland counties that is challenged because of the geographic spread. Some county LTRGs were formed after Hurricane Irene.
- NJ VOAD is taking part in housing issues for those displaced still 200-300 people from IRENE that haven't moved back into home, so this storm will require years of work.

Strategies

- [Ocean County LTRG](#) just had its first meeting. 200 people came out - a mixture of nonprofits, local government, FEMA, faith-based leaders and residents. LTRG members will invite State Office of Emergency Management representatives to next meeting.
- The OceanFirst Foundation underwrote the cost of putting the meeting together, which was run by the Ocean County Dept. Human Services (OC DHS). The OC DHS canceled their regular advisory meeting and opened up the invitation list to get more people in the room and assess the county's needs and assets. The

partnership between OC DHS and Ocean First Foundation enabled the meeting to happen quickly in a highly organized way.

NJ Recovery Fund Update

The NJ Recovery Fund has been formally launched by the, Community Foundation of New Jersey, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and other partner organizations Other funding partners are joining the NJ Community Fund, and participants on this call are encouraged to join the NJ Recovery Fund if they are exploring creating their own fund in order to pool resources for collective impact.

FOLLOW UP

The NJ VOAD Contact list will be redistributed to the group via CNJG's recently established Post-Sandy Funder Listserv. All funders interested in opting-in to this listserv should contact Theresa Jacks at tjacks@cnjg.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- November 20, 2012 - CNJG meeting of organizations that are creating funds where money will be collected and regranting
- December 11, 2012 - CNJG Corporate grantmakers conference call (employee needs, employee volunteering, employee matching gifts, etc.)
- Through a small grant from the Victoria Foundation Elizabeth Murphy is joining CNJG to help with the coordination and dissemination of information of CNJG's efforts, elizabethmurphy@cnjg.org

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>