



Partners for Disaster Recovery

Housing Counseling Agencies (HCAs) can strengthen their community’s recovery from disaster by partnering with other community stakeholders. HCAs should reach out to these potential partners as part of their emergency preparedness activities to establish relationships and discuss ways to collaborate in the event of a disaster.

PARTNERS IN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HCAs should be aware of the emergency planning that is occurring in their communities. These contacts are mutually beneficial: HCAs can seek advice on how to prepare their organizations and also inform emergency responders about how HCAs can help their clients with emergency preparedness and recovery. In addition, if the HCA is part of a HUD-approved intermediary, state housing finance agency, or multi-state organization, these partners may have further information.

Resource	Details
<p>Local Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Response Office Representative(s)</p>	<p>Your community should have a designated office for emergency management and disaster preparedness. You can find the contact information for emergency management agencies and offices at www.fema.gov/emergency-management-agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask to be informed about local preparedness activities and get involved with these efforts. • Ensure that your organization is included in local alert systems. • Confirm that your organization has made adequate preparations in case of a disaster event. • Share the Sample Promotional Flyer (HCAs Can Support Disaster Recovery) to inform them about HCA services and skills that may be useful in their disaster preparedness activities.
<p>Community Development Office</p>	<p>Your community development office also should be involved in emergency planning for housing and businesses in your community.</p>



PARTNERS IN DISASTER RECOVERY

In the event of a disaster, HCAs will want to reach out to other partners, in addition to those described above, to seek resources for their own operations, as well as services for their clients. HCAs are encouraged to make these connections before a disaster occurs.

Federal Partners

Resource	Details
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Representative	<p>FEMA can provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual assistance: This assistance is available to clients affected by the disaster and can cover childcare expenses, emergency medical and dental assistance, fuel for a primary heat source, funeral and burial expenses, emergency shelter/temporary housing, lodging expenses reimbursement, essential household items, moving and storage costs, vehicle repairs, and cleanup items, as well as help with repairs to primary residences. • Public assistance: This assistance provides funding for debris removal; life-saving emergency protective measures; and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged publicly owned facilities and certain nonprofit facilities. Most HCAs meet the eligibility criteria for obtaining public assistance funding if an HCA is damaged as a result of a disaster. • Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance: FEMA also offers funding that can help reduce future risk from disaster damage, including buyouts, elevations, and the construction of safe rooms. <p>If possible, HCAs should meet with local FEMA officials to discuss the options available to local households and how best HCAs can help their clients access those resources.</p> <p>HCAs may access FEMA through the state or local disaster preparedness office or by visiting www.fema.gov/fema-regional-office-contact-information.</p>
Small Business Administration (SBA)	<p>SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private nonprofit organizations, homeowners, and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. HCAs can help clients apply for SBA loans online at disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.</p>
Office of Housing Counseling Point of Contact (POC)	<p>In the event of a disaster, the HUD POC can provide guidance, perspective, and/or access to technical assistance. HCAs should contact their OHC POC within 15 days to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about their status post-disaster and inform HUD of any resource needs to keep the HCA open and functioning. • Inform them of any potential delays in service delivery, agency work plan, or quarterly reporting.
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	<p>The USDA Disaster Resource Center provides information about specific disasters and emergencies, and how to prepare, recover, and help build long-term resilience, as well as information about USDA assistance during disaster events. Helpful resources include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Service Locator • USDA Disaster Reference Guide • Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)



Local Partners

Resource	Details
<u>Emergency Management Agency</u>	The local and state emergency management agency has direct channels of communication to FEMA and can help navigate the various FEMA funding opportunities available to clients and, if the HCA building requires repairs, HCAs as well.
<u>Housing and Community Development Agency</u>	The local and state Housing and Community Development Agency is the most likely recipient of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding following a disaster. HCAs can help these agencies understand their clients' needs, which can inform and influence how funding is allocated in the CDBG-DR Action Plan. A full list of CDBG-DR grantees can be found at: www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/cdbg-dr-grantee-contact-information . Once the CDBG-DR program is up and running, HCAs can help clients understand how to apply for and navigate the CDBG-DR program, as well as other non-disaster recovery resources that may be available for longer term recovery, such as through the HOME Investment Partnership Act program and regular CDBG funding. The HCA also may have additional federal, state, and local funds available to assist with disaster recovery.

Useful Networks

Resource	Details
<u>Continuum of Care Members</u>	In most communities, the Continuum of Care represents the full spectrum of stakeholders in the homeless assistance, prevention, and service delivery system.
Nonprofit Networks	Jurisdiction-wide nonprofits have the networks to reach large numbers of social services agencies – such as the United Way, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Salvation Army, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), and the Urban League – and at-risk residents.
Local Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board	Members include Catholic Charities, Jewish Social Services, and the Salvation Army.
<u>National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)</u>	Member organizations represent a diverse group of highly competent organizations that provide a wide range of disaster response and recovery services. They include the <u>American Red Cross</u> and <u>Catholic Charities</u> . For information on national and local members, see www.nvoad.org .



Individual Agencies and Service Providers

Resource	Details
<u>Public Housing Authority (PHA) Representative and Other Low-Income Housing Providers</u>	PHAs and others may be able to provide housing resources.
Utilities	You may need to help your clients deal with utilities to address delays in payments or help them get services turned back on after disruptions. There are also some funding sources that may be available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and HOME program funding that provide utility assistance.
Realtors and Lenders	You may already have relationships with realtors and banks, but consider how conditions may have changed post-disaster and how you can work together to address new challenges.
Operators of Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing	The Continuum of Care (CoC), noted above, should be able to link you to emergency shelters and longer term housing options; however, if you do not have a CoC, you will want to know who can provide temporary or transitional housing to your clients.
Street Outreach and Feeding Programs	Street outreach and feeding programs may be able to conduct outreach for your services, and conversely, they may seek HCA services for their clients.
Faith-Based Institutions That Provide Services to Persons Currently or At-Risk of Experiencing Homelessness	Identify all agencies that are not members of the CoC. Include faith-based institutions that provide social services in the form of case management and those assisting clients with finding temporary or permanent housing.
Healthcare Providers, Medical Services Providers, and Hospitals	Identify agencies that can help your clients with healthcare needs if their usual healthcare delivery systems are compromised by the disaster. Healthcare providers may also want to link their clients to housing services.
Mental Health Services Providers	Because clients may be suffering from trauma post-disaster, partnerships with mental health services providers may be helpful. Similarly, these providers may want help placing their clients in stable housing.
Substance Use Disorders Programs	Identify programs that provide support to people with substance use disorders. They are needed to assist persons suffering from withdrawal or other side effects related to their substance use during a disaster.
Humane Society, Other Local Animal Rescue Groups, and Private Veterinarians	Post-disaster (as well as during emergency response), your clients may need help caring for service animals and family pets to ease anxiety and facilitate new housing options.