



## A Model of Collaboration for Recovery and Resilience

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In 2020, FEMA published *Planning Considerations: Disaster Housing, Guidance for State, Local, and Territorial Partners* that recommending each state form a standing state-led disaster housing task force that develops a statewide disaster housing plan. In response, Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) has partnered with the Florida Housing Coalition to lead a coordinated state-led response to address housing issues post-disaster. This collaborative effort is called the Florida State-Led Disaster Housing Task Force (DHTF) brings together public and private agencies and organizations from all levels of government, meeting bi-weekly to evaluate housing requirements, consider potential solutions, and propose recommendations leading to permanent housing solutions for survivors of natural disasters.

The DHTF has two working bodies. The main group is comprised of over 100 members representing members of local, state, and national organizations, companies, and various government agencies that bring expertise in disaster recovery, resilience and mitigation, nonprofit housing development and management, case management, housing counseling, financial counseling, and more. A sub-set of representatives make up a smaller Working Group that meets more frequently and is tasked with steering the direction of a long-term disaster housing plan.

The Task Force and its Working Group have two main objectives: to coordinate immediate housing resources and information, and to develop, maintain, and implement a

Florida disaster housing recovery plan as outlined in the FEMA publication. The purpose of the plan is to prepare the State and other agencies to quickly and effectively meet the housing needs of those affected by future hurricanes. The smaller Working Group is developing the plan will primarily be the responsibility of the Working Group with input from the larger Task Force. The Florida Housing Coalition sends a biweekly Report-Out survey to allow members to ask questions, share information, or request assistance in a trackable format. The results of this survey are used to guide meeting topics and will ultimately inform the disaster housing recovery plan.

The creation of the DHTF is significant for several reasons. While FEMA has led similar task forces in the past, this is the first truly a state-led initiative comprised of a large bench of members, including housing providers who are now at the table with responders at both the local and state levels. In addition, the quickness with which this Task Force came together has been remarkable. This has helped to facilitate an immediate and better coordinated response compared the much slower delivery housing assistance in past disasters. FEMA, FDEM, and others began coordinating funding for Transitional Housing Assistance (TSA), Direct Housing assistance, and more just days after Hurricane Ian made landfall.

### Resilience: Are we there yet?

The affordable housing industry has not been idle in the past few years of relative calm. Significant efforts have been made to assess the vulnerabilities of the housing stock for single-family homes, manufactured housing communities,

# Florida State - Led DHTF Report-Out

Weeks of 10/24 - 11/02/2022



## 20 RESPONSES

10 Local Government  
3 National Industry  
5 State Government  
1 Regional Government  
1 Federal Agency



## Challenges

• Only 2 staff in Housing Services and there are **no agencies** in Flagler County that provide disaster recovery or housing rehabilitation services...

• **Information sharing** from FEMA and the TSA (aka ELA) contractor.

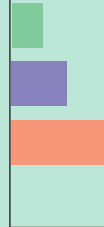
Closing congregate shelters and having nowhere to go

Access to Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA - hotels)

Survivors living in damaged dwelling and not being able to find safe places to live/stay

Finding shelters with functional or accessibility needs

(Current)



## Successes

• **The City** has provided emergency rental assistance to applicants who were behind in their rent and utility payments. We have also provided **hotel/motel vouchers** to clients who were waiting on permanent housing.

• State agencies have been on every call re: disaster housing that I have been on.

• Crisiscleanup.org, Team Rubicon, Operation BBQ Relief, etc. were a huge help to so many; the VOADS have been great.

### Lack of Affordable Housing

- Temporary & Longterm
- Causing Displacement

### Lack of Staff or Team

- No Support Orgs
- For Intake Program Roll-out

### Lack of Funds

- For eviction assistance
- For housing recovery
- For pre-storm mitigation

### Coordination

- Local planning & messaging
- Quick; for funding
- For special needs housing
- State participation
- Industry participation
- With volunteer organizations

### City Funding

- **SHIP funds** directed to Disaster Strategy
- For temporary housing (including hotels)
- For rent payments and utilities
- For elderly & disabled assistance

### Miscellaneous

- Mass care response
- USDA very LMI grant increase \$10k to \$36,520
- Quick electric repair
- Quick FEMA housing

### Data Sharing

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- Lack of intake software for WFH staff
- Material supply chain

### TEMPORARY (Current)

Q. Biggest challenge w/current housing operations?

- Lack of hotels
- Lack of housing plan
- Slow Direct Housing delivery
- Lack of Multifamily stock
- Lack of information
- Safe immediate repairs
- Families don't want to leave
- Lack of HO insurance to relocate

and multifamily housing. The Florida Housing Coalition has engaged in multiple mitigation planning initiatives statewide to make housing more resilient to natural disasters. Regional planning councils have worked to coordinate housing resilience with mitigation and disaster recovery planning. SHIP administrators are reaching out to emergency management operations to build a transfer system from shelter to repaired or replaced homes. Hurricanes such as Ian and Nicole always remind us of the urgency of mitigation planning to achieve a resilient housing stock. The DHTF has already proven beneficial to the quick response. Sustaining this group of stakeholders will help to increase resiliency and increase the efficiency of recovery from future disasters.

Thanks to the Wells Fargo Foundation, the Florida Housing Coalition was awarded funding to allow it to dedicate its Resilience and Disaster Recovery Team to develop training, provide technical assistance, and participate in the Disaster Housing Task Force for the next few years. All meetings of the DHTF and its Working Group are recorded and posted <https://flhousing.org/disaster-recovery/>

**WELLS FARGO**



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