

Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

Funder Briefing: #1

Date: November 5, 2012

Topic: Update from NJ Philanthropic Leaders and FEMA's Long Term Recovery Office

Speakers: **Denise Gilliam**, Recovery Directorate - FEMA; National Disaster Recovery Planning Division, *Capacity Building and Long Term Community Recovery*;

Hans Dekker, President - Community Foundation of New Jersey;

Christopher Daggett, President and CEO - Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation;

HIGHLIGHTS

Update from Denise Gilliam on what FEMA sees as the intermediate & long term challenges funders will face.

FEMA provides two different kinds of support:

- **Support for selected communities with high impact from disaster but low capacity for recovery:** FEMA works directly with state agencies, funders and municipalities to assess damage and provide technical assistance to the most-heavily impacted areas of the state; FEMA coordinates federal agencies through the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (including HUD, Dept. of Commerce, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.).
- **Support for Individuals:** FEMA works with [NJ VOAD](#) and [Long Term Recovery Groups](#) that deal with assistance in unmet needs for individual families. **Individuals/families should be urged to apply for any and all federal funds that they are eligible for BEFORE turning to the assistance of nonprofits and funders.**
 - Individuals who are unable to work due to disasters are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Insurance
 - FEMA has a crisis counseling grant that the state is applying for

FEMA Vermont Recovery Learning from Hurricane Irene:

- [VT Community Foundation](#) (VTCF) and the [Stratton Foundation](#) helped individuals with a 25% cost-share program to assist with buyouts
- VTCF offered grant writing workshops, as there was a gap identified in trained grantwriters. Grant writing workshops covered Federal grants in morning sessions and all other grants in afternoon sessions.
- "Recovery" funding is more difficult to find than "Response" funding - New Orleans area foundations are a good example of long-term vision seven years after Hurricane Katrina
- Thoughtful planning for recovery is recommended
- VT - created a "pooled" fund at the state level that families could apply to once disaster/recovery funds run out at the local level, which helped to even out the disparity between communities with less local funding for individual families and those with more local funding.
- If we can't bring the tax-base back then communities may not recover, so recovery efforts should be focused with that goal in mind.

Update from Hans Dekker and Chris Daggett on the establishment of a Collaborative Fund

The development of a collaborative recovery fund drawing upon foundations, corporations and individuals is in process. This collaborative fund will focus on intermediate & long-term recovery needs, led by the [Community Foundation of New Jersey](#) (Hans Dekker) and [The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation](#) (Christopher Daggett), in collaboration with the [Community Foundation of South Jersey](#) (Sidney Hargro). [For more information, visit: <http://www.cfnj.org/new-jersey-recovery/>]

Full Group Discussion on Strategies the Funding Community is Exploring/Implementing

Sampling of Needs and Concerns:

- concern that children in shelters are missing school
- teachers have lost supplies and materials

Key Activities and Update from the Field:

- CNJG is in close contact with Philanthropy NY to help educate NY funders who want to support NJ recovery efforts.
- Immediate Relief Funding available from: Compassion Fund in Bergen and United Way/Newark

FOLLOW UP

- Hans Dekker asks that all on the call please send ideas for the focus of the new collaborative fund, which will be housed at the Community Foundation of NJ. hdekker@cfnj.org
- Cathy McCann, President of NJ VOAD will be asked to provide the list of NJVOAD partnering organizations

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Just launched: Brooklyn Recovery Fund: Brooklyn Chamber, Brooklyn Community Foundation & Office of Brooklyn Borough President created a collaborative fund for Sandy Recovery.
- Philanthropic Response Strategy from previous disasters:
 - after 9/11: Panasonic, J&J, and Prudential created a Disaster Fund for Children of NJ for short term housing, food, and daycare. The Newark Chamber became the distribution organization for that money. The Fund provided up to 6-weeks' worth of living expenses.

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>