

## Summary: Post-Sandy Funder Briefing--Series I

**Funder Briefing:** #2

**Date:** November 12, 2012

**Topic:** Essential strategies for the Funding Community in times of disaster

**Speakers:** **Jera Stribling**, Executive Director - Joseph Bruno Charitable Foundation; Co-author: *Creating Order Out of Chaos*;

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

**Josh Barnes**, National Coordinator, Recovery Support Function - Federal Economic Administration;

**Kristy Ray**, Voluntary Agency Liaison – FEMA

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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The Council of New Jersey Grantmakers is coordinating a meeting of relief/recovery funds that are currently in operation - participants on this call are encouraged to share information and help connect funds with CNJG.

**Funder Role** - Jera Stribling (Executive Director for the [Joseph Bruno Charitable Foundation](#), and Director of the [state's regional association Alabama Giving](#)), helped coordinate the funder response to the Alabama tornado disaster, during which 62 tornadoes touched down in the state in a single day. She also assisted with the development of the Jesse Ball duPont Fund's exemplary disaster relief guide for funders [Creating Order Out of Chaos](#).

### **What Funders Can Do Post-Disaster:**

- Serve as essential Communicators and Conveners for your communities and state.
- Run phone calls, such as this one as a way to share updates/and to bring in expert advice from other states.
- Identify and partner with your local [VOADs](#) - essential local level group of volunteers who are tied to the national network. They should be an early partner in efforts.
- Provide funding to hire & train other case managers when there aren't enough on the ground.
- Supply computers at centralized locations (i.e. libraries) for people to apply for FEMA relief online.
- Help prepare spaces for long-term housing needs: Jera's foundation helped to modify a church recreation center by upgrading the showers and installing a new commercial kitchen system
- Secure warehouses for building materials & supplies, which need to be stored
- Help to get the word out about deadlines for applications, documents necessary to apply, and to clarify any confusion - FEMA uses the same application form for individuals needing assistance AND small business loans, which confused applicants, causing lost time in which to file for assistance.
- Funders can call nationally-based groups to address unmet needs (like computers for filing applications)
- Leadership Development Program - provide small municipal governments with training so that the communities have strong leadership in government moving forward. [Long Term Recovery Groups](#) will need to be set up to help with flow of funding.
- Look into setting up a no-interest loan pool.
- Funders can be effective "conveners" to bring people together, as they are neutral players

- It is imperative that all funding organizations that wish to do disaster work fully understand the step by step process and requirements of federal disaster relief programs. Some things must happen in a certain order and it's very important to work with the FEMA framework.

### Long-term Strategies / Opportunities

- In Alabama there was a \$25,000 cap per claim, which will never be enough - someone needs to fill that gap. FEMA also only works with designated communities (in Alabama only 5-6 were chosen).
- Don't expend your funds on the front end - wait until you know long term needs. This will be easily a 5-7 year recovery process, must be strategic in planning how to rebuild, homes, public facilities, etc. An unforeseen long-term need in Alabama was mental health needs.
- Nonprofit burnout is on the horizon - help the first responders
- Make sure that EVERYONE is at the table, be inclusive during planning processes.
- Need to find long term housing for a lot of people for a long time.
- Long Term medical costs will be far more than immediate need money that is available.
- Funders can help by nominating people for Long Term Recovery groups (look at grantees, faith-based and retirees), as VOAD will not help you carry this work out in the community in the long term. Community colleges are another good source.

### **Economic Development Support** - Josh Barnes - [Federal Economic Administration; joshua.j.barnes@eda.gov](mailto:joshua.j.barnes@eda.gov)

Josh coordinates efforts to look at the consequences of disasters on economic development, workforce development, small businesses and business' access to capital needs, as well as addressing specific issues related to relevant industries in a community (manufacturing, tourism, etc.); works with agencies including the Dept. of Commerce, FEMA, SPA, Dept. of Labor, Dept. of the Treasury, HHS, HUD, and others.

### **Volunteer Support** - Kristy Ray - [Voluntary Agency Liaison, FEMA; kristy.ray@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:kristy.ray@fema.dhs.gov)

- Staff at the FEMA Recovery Center: currently 25, request for 11 more
- NEED: Volunteer housing - expecting thousands of volunteers from out of state
- Immediate Clean Up phase currently underway is a pilot program to make fully-fledged repairs to buildings instead of installing short-term patches and returning at a later date to finish major repairs.
- FEMA currently works with the National VOAD, which has 55 national member agencies (Red Cross, Salvation Army, religious etc.) who can also be called upon to assist

### FOLLOW UP

- Denise Gilliam will share info on the Community Recovery Assistance Program when it's available.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- CNJG is launching a Post-Sandy Funder Listserv – funders interested in joining must opt-in by contacting Theresa Jacks at [tjacks@cnjg.org](mailto:tjacks@cnjg.org)
- [NJ VOAD](#) - daily noon phone call to coordinate voluntary organizations.
- [NJ211.org](#) send them info on volunteers and resources for inclusion in a master list

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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>