



Experts Roundtable on Enhancing Housing Resiliency

Thursday, January 24, 2019

Hall of the States, 444 North Capitol Street NW, Washington, DC

Room 231

BACKGROUND

With natural disasters becoming more frequent, intense and widespread, damages have reached over \$400 billion in the past three years, including billions of dollars in damages to the nation's housing stock. This has prompted the federal government to provide additional recovery funding to state and local governments for housing repairs and adding new conditions and opportunities directed at reducing future damages. As state and local governments work to effectively rebuild their communities, they are faced with the challenge of effectively deploying recovery funding and considering what other policy and planning steps they can take to enhance housing resiliency.

At the heart of the challenge is a need for better state coordination around recovery funding. A significant portion of federal funding comes in the form of Community Development Block Grants - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) administered by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as mitigation funding made available by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In many cases, the state or local agency responsible for administering CDBG-DR is not responsible for administering FEMA mitigation funding. This presents opportunities for gubernatorial leadership, coordination and action: to ensure state agencies are working across silos and expending federal resources in a manner that makes their state's housing stock more resilient than before the natural disaster struck. There are other opportunities for states to explore as well, including how to make resilient recovery planning a routine exercise that engages multiple parties and to examine updates to building codes and other policies and incentive mechanisms that can add to resiliency efforts.

OBJECTIVE AND GROUNDRULES

This one-day experts roundtable will examine policies and actions to improve resilience of the housing stock (both damaged and unharmed) that can address the challenges described above. The discussions will inform the preparation of a whitepaper to be distributed to governors and their policy advisors in spring 2019.

This will be a closed meeting – discussions will not be directed at policy consensus or cited for attribution. While some sessions will feature brief presentations, we seek to foster engaged discussion among all the experts present.

The roundtable is hosted by the National Governors Association with support and input from IBTS who has worked for over a decade in helping communities recover and rebuild after natural disasters.

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AGENDA

8:00am—9:00am

Registration and Breakfast

Hall of the States – Room 231

9:00am—9:30am

Welcome, Introductions and Discussion of Objectives

Following a welcome and introductions, NGA and IBTS will discuss objectives for the meeting, give the charge for the day, and provide an overview of the follow-on activities leading from this roundtable.

- Sue Gander, Division Director, Environment, Energy & Transportation, NGA Center for Best Practices
- Chris Fennell, Chief Development & Marketing Officer, IBTS

9:30am—10:30am

A View from the States: Connecticut and North Carolina

This session will feature two states, Connecticut and North Carolina, both sharing how their CDBG-DR and FEMA Mitigation programs are structured and administered, and lessons learned from their recovery process following major disasters that affected their states.

- Moderator: Garrett Eucalitto, Transportation Program Director, NGA Center
- Speakers:
 - Brenda Bergeron, Chief Counsel, Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 - Mia Delaire, Sandy Recovery Program Director, Connecticut Department of Housing
 - Mike Sprayberry, Emergency Management Director, North Carolina Department of Public Safety
 - Laura Hogshead, Chief Operating Officer, North Carolina Department of Public Safety

10:30am—11:00am

The Local Experience: IBTS

This session will take a deep dive into how local governments use their CDBG grants. We will learn about best practices, positives and negatives of these programs, and how state and local governments can work together to effectively utilize these funds.

- Moderator: Patrick Howell, Association Liaison, IBTS
- Speaker: Scott Myers, Senior Disaster Recovery Specialist, IBTS

11:00am—11:30am

Break

11:30am—12:00pm

Federal Update: the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act

Last year, Congress enacted the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 (DRRA). The DRRA will join the ranks of other comprehensive efforts such as the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act and Sandy Recovery Improvement Act. It includes major changes to processes, eligibilities, and FEMA funding for states. This discussion will explore major changes in DRRA and impacts for state and local governments.

- Moderator: Mary Catherine Ott, Legislative Director, NGA
- Speaker: Matt Cowles, Deputy Director, NEMA

12:00pm—1:00pm

Lunch, with Roundtable Discussion

Prior to the Experts Roundtable, IBTS conducted stakeholder interviews with disaster-affected city, county, and state officials to gain insight and expertise stemming from their CDBG-DR experience. This session will review the feedback, along with a facilitated discussion on the successes, challenges, and lessons learned in addressing resilient housing following a natural disaster.

Moderator: Patrick Howell, IBTS

1:00pm—2:15pm

Discussion: Innovative Ways to Coordinate Resilience & Mitigation Programs

Questions to consider: What are the plans and strategies to improve housing resilience prior to emergencies and who/what agencies need to be coordinating with each other to ensure resilient recovery? What are the best ways for federal, state, and local governments and communities to engage with each other? What are the best practices for how states should structure the administration of CDBG funds and the use of FEMA mitigation funds?

- Three Breakout Groups:
 - Group 1: Coordinated by Garrett Eucalitto & Matt Rogotzke
 - Group 2: Coordinated by Patrick Howell & Brielle Stander
 - Group 3: Coordinated by Chris Fennell & Sue Gander

2:15pm—3:00pm

Discussion: How Can Governors Make Housing More Resilient?

Last year saw an historic election cycle, with 22 states and territories welcoming new governors into office in 2019. Each participant will offer her or his suggestion of the one thing new governors could do to improve the resilience of existing and future housing stock.

- Moderator: Garrett Eucalitto, NGA Center

3:00pm—3:30pm

Closing Remarks

NGA and IBTS will review plans for the White Paper and next steps for additional engagement. What are the key findings from the day?

- Sue Gander, NGA Center for Best Practices
- Chris Fennell, IBTS

