



OFFICE OF  
HOUSING COUNSELING

# **Disaster Assistance and Recovery Team (DART)**

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**March 11-13, 2019**  
Washington Hilton Hotel  
Washington, DC

THE **JUST** **ECONOMY**  **2019**  
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# DART Team Mission



- Prepare housing counseling agencies (HCAs) for disasters and build capacity with training and technical assistance
- Monitor response/recovery activities of agencies impacted by disaster.
- Participate in Departmental Disaster Team responses to Major and Presidentially Declared Disasters
- Suggest program and policy improvements
- Produce awareness and visibility materials
- Provide support, guidance and technical assistance, and gather data

# DART Support of HCAs



- Educate and support housing counseling agencies and housing counselors to help clients dealing with disasters and emergencies including training them to
  - Plan and prepare for emergencies and disasters
  - Prepare an agency Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan and client Emergency Plans
  - Respond after a disaster
  - Help with disaster recovery efforts
- Monitor the operations of and offer assistance to housing counseling agencies impacted by disasters

# OHC Disaster Outreach & Monitoring



- **BEFORE** an emergency, OHC will proactively reach out to housing counseling agencies when it appears that a disaster is imminent.
  - Work with training partners to provide webinars and other training on disaster counseling
  - Update to Disaster Resources on HUD Exchange.
- **AFTER** an Emergency Declaration (with individual assistance) by FEMA, OHC will begin formal outreach to determine operating status, assess damage, and evaluate needs.
  - LISTSERVs are sent out announcing an emergency declaration and giving broad guidance.
  - During the disaster and in the recovery period, monitoring of the impact will continue.
  - Assessment of the Operational and Capacity Status of Housing Counseling Agencies after a Disaster
    - A survey is sent to each identified agencies in a disaster area
  - Partners with HCA's at disaster sites to distribute information about housing counseling



# Definition of Disaster Assistance Housing Counseling



- **Disaster Assistance Housing Counseling** includes all the traditional education and counseling services, where the need for services is created by a disaster, either pending or occurred. A disaster may be a natural or man-made event that is local, regional or national in scope. These services may be Preparedness (pre-disaster) or Recovery (post disaster). Housing Counseling Agencies can offer these services through group workshops and/or one-on-one counseling. The duration of such housing counseling may be short or long-term.

# Training by HUD Partners



- The four Training Grantees have disaster classes in their catalogs.
  - Neighborworks
  - UnidosUS
  - National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Inc.(NCRC)
  - Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
- These classes are supported by OHC Housing Counseling Training Grants
- Other Training Partners, such as Counselors Corner and other federal agencies, offer classes.
- The classes are both in-person and webinars. Many are archived.

# Reporting on Disaster Assistance Counseling



- HCAs cannot currently count “Disaster Assistance Counseling” clients on the HUD-9902
  - Clients not currently counted or counted as a part of an agencies homeless or foreclosure counseling
  - Skews homeless and foreclosure numbers
  - Does not support funding requests or data requests
  - Does not support Comprehensive Housing Counseling NOFA points
  - Not in line with Secretarial Priorities
- OHC is working on revisions to the HUD- 9902 to allow counting of disaster clients.



# OHC Disaster Resources on HUD Exchange



- The [Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery Toolkit](#) is an online guide created to help Housing Counseling Agencies (HCAs) prepare for disaster events and engage with local partners that receive funding following disasters. This toolkit is for HCAs, Intermediaries, State Housing Finance Agencies, and Multi-State Organizations seeking to play an active and effective role in local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- [Disaster and Emergency News and Resources](#) This page contains a collection of news, resources, and guidance to assist housing counselors with response and recovery efforts specific to disasters. Check this page for resources for housing counseling agencies and news and updates about the disasters as they become available.
- View the [Disaster Recovery Flyers](#) to help inform members of your community the benefits of working with a housing counselor during emergency and disaster recovery.





HUD EXCHANGE

## Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery Toolkit

[About this Toolkit ►](#)

### PREPARING FOR A DISASTER

Prepare your organization and your clients to respond to disaster

[View Guide](#)

### OPERATING POST DISASTER

Resume and maintain operations and enhance counseling services to support community recovery

[View Guide](#)

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# Disaster and Emergency News and Resources for Housing Counselors

This page contains a collection of news, resources, and guidance to assist housing counselors with response and recovery efforts specific to disasters. Launched in 2017 following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, this page is updated frequently with the latest information and links following each new disaster that occurs.

All HUD participating housing counseling agencies impacted by disaster are encouraged to review the [Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness Resources](#) located on the HUD Exchange. It contains disaster recovery and emergency preparedness resources specifically for housing counseling programs. This page provides immediate access to the [Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery Toolkit](#), [Disaster Recovery Flyers](#), and other HUD, FEMA, and federal partner resources.



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# Disaster Recovery Flyers Available for download

## Turn to a HUD Housing Counselor For Help



## Don't be a Victim of Cons and Scams



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# Office of Housing Counseling



## Questions or Comments?

Email us with **DART** in the subject line:  
[Housing.counseling@hud.gov](mailto:Housing.counseling@hud.gov)