



Emergency Management Task Force 2022 Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement

The Emergency Management Task Force (TF) advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities as it pertains to services before, during, and after natural and man-made disasters to ensure all people have access to needed services. This might include reaching out to applicable federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and the White House Domestic Policy Council. The TF also educates Congress to advocate for necessary legislation to provide important services during disasters, and to ensure that people with disabilities are not left out of pertinent policies. The TF also monitors active disaster impacts on people with disabilities and disability discrimination.

2. Top Issues the Task Force Worked On in 2022

- The TF promoted passage of the Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act (REAAID), H.R. 4938 / S. 2658. The TF first helped to push for the introduction of the bill in the Summer of 2021. After the bill was officially introduced in both the House and Senate, the TF kept a close eye on the progress of the bill, kept in constant communication with the applicable committees, and provided online web content to promote the bill, despite our best efforts and significant support from across the country, REAAID did not pass in the 117th.
- The TF promoted passage of the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act, H.R. 4937 / S. 2646. First, the TF pushed for the introduction of the bill in the Summer of 2021. The TF continued to work with pertinent Hill staff to encourage progression of the bill. TF members have also developed web content to promote the bill. Despite our best efforts and significant support from across the country, DRMA did not pass in the 117th.

3. Top Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2023

- The Emergency TF intends to work to have REAAID and DRMA reintroduced in the 118th Congress. Lead sponsors have already been identified and discussion about any changes will begin in January.

- In 2022 disaster response remained wholly inadequate in complying with federal civil rights laws. The Emergency Management TF will continue to meet with federal agencies with enforcement obligations to call for immediate and sustained monitoring and enforcement of all applicable laws and regulations.

4. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (eastern)

4th Wednesday, 2:00 PM

5. 2022 Co-Chairs

Claire Stanley, National Disability Rights Network
Germán Parodi, Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
Shaylin Sluzalis, Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
Marcie Roth, World Institute on Disability