



July 23, 2021

Administrator Deanne Criswell  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St., SW  
Washington D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Emergency Management Task Force writes to congratulate you on your confirmation as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). CCD is a coalition of national disability led, disability rights, advocacy, consumer, provider, and self-advocacy organizations representing this nation's more than 61 million Americans with disabilities.

We are heartened by your history in working together with one of our Co-Chairs, Marcie Roth. We appreciated hearing about your commitment to disability inclusive emergency management. Your background illustrates a firm commitment to an investment in risk reduction to make communities more resilient during disasters.

Often, people with disabilities are routinely overlooked and underserved before, during, and after disasters. This begins when people with disabilities are left out of emergency preparedness processes, which then disproportionately impacts them during disasters. The consequences have been catastrophic. We look forward to working with you and FEMA to restore the previous progress that FEMA was making during the Obama Administration and implementation of additional emergency preparedness, disaster response and whole community recovery practices to improve community resilience and improved disaster outcomes for people with disabilities.

CCD is committed to work with you to ensure that improve FEMA's focus on individuals with disabilities during disasters, and the engagement of disability leaders as a priority in your commitment to achieving equity and civil rights compliance at FEMA.

We are encouraged that your commitment to the development and sustainment of our nation's infrastructure will enable the nation to push through this crisis. CCD looks forward to channeling that commitment to infrastructure to create and sustain emergency management practices to accommodate persons with disabilities before, during, and after major disasters.

By entering your appointment during the COVID-19 pandemic, you are facing the government's failures that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities. You are also in a position to help ensure that we never leave people with disabilities behind again.

We would once again like to congratulate you on your confirmation. We are looking forward to working with you moving forward. Please reach out to the CCD Emergency Task Force with any questions by contacting Claire Stanley. You can reach Claire at [Claire.stanley@ndrn.org](mailto:Claire.stanley@ndrn.org).

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities  
Emergency Preparedness Task Force

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Public Policy Analyst  
National Disability Rights Network

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