



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Emergency Management Task Force 2021 Annual Report

I. Task Force Description

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.

II. Top 3 Issues the Task Force Worked On in 2021

1. The TF promoted the introduction of the Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act (REAADI), 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.
2. The committee pushed for the introduction 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. After the bill was officially introduced, the TF continued to converse with pertinent Hill staff to encourage the progression of the bill. TF members have also developed web content to promote the bill.
3. The Emergency TF worked with the Transportation TF to reach out to the White House to illustrate the barriers to people with disabilities when trying to access the COVID-19 vaccination. Transportation is a significant barrier for many people with disabilities. As a result, there was a fear that such people would not have

access to transportation that would get them to a vaccination site. The two task forces sent a letter to the White House COVID-19 Task Force to highlight the need to eliminate these barriers by providing both accessible, affordable transportation, and in-home vaccination.

III. Top 3 Issues Identified for 2022

1. The Emergency Management TF intends to explore and potentially help promote the passage of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act, H.R. 4707 / S. 2471. The bill works to permanently authorize the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, which provides states, territories, tribes, and communities with flexible, long-term recovery resources to rebuild affordable housing and infrastructure after a disaster. The TF plans to reach out to the Housing TF to collaborate on the bill.
2. The Emergency TF intends to continue to push for the passage of READI and DRMA. Now that the two bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate, the TF intends to continue communications with the Hill to move the bills through the necessary committees. The TF has talked about drafting a letter to the applicable committees to push DRMA further along. It is also likely that more Hill meetings will be scheduled to find additional cosponsors for the two bills. And, House and Senate Briefings have been discussed with Lead Sponsors.
3. 2021 disaster response remained wholly inadequate in complying with federal civil rights laws. The Emergency Management TF will meet with federal agencies with enforcement obligations to call for immediate and sustained monitoring and enforcement of all applicable laws and regulations. The TF will also investigate the progress of the Emergency Relief Assistance Program. Through the CARES Act, the U.S. Treasury is to disseminate money to help pay for housing for those impacted by COVID. However, states have had varying degrees of success in implementing the funds. The TF will explore what needs to be done to make sure the program is successful in disseminating the funds for those who were badly impacted by the pandemic.

IV. Task Force Meetings

4th Wednesday of the month at 2:00 PM eastern

V. 2021 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

VI. Task Force Webpage Link

http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=3