



September 1, 2022

Sherman Gillums, Director  
Office on Disability Integration and Coordination  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C St., SW  
Washington D.C. 20024

Dear Director Gillums:

The Emergency Management Task Force of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) writes to congratulate you on your selection as director of the Office on Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the civil rights of people with disabilities. Our task force is excited to work with you to serve individuals with disabilities before, during, and after disasters.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society, free from racism, ableism, sexism, and xenophobia, as well as LGBTQ+ based discrimination and religious intolerance.

Your background illustrates a firm commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Often, people with disabilities are left out of emergency preparedness processes, and in disasters our rights are violated leading to increased injury, institutionalization, and death. The consequences of such under preparedness have been devastating.

We look forward to working with you and FEMA to strengthen emergency preparedness practices as well as compliance, monitoring and enforcement of all legal obligations under the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Stafford Act to make communities more resilient during and after natural and man-made disasters. Your past leadership with national disability organizations illustrates your experience with the rights



and needs of people with disabilities, who continue to be 2-4 times more likely to be injured or die in a disaster than people who don't have disabilities. There is much work to do and we hope to work closely with you to improve relationships between disability leaders and FEMA.

We would once again like to congratulate you for your selection by FEMA. We are excited to work with you moving forward. We would like to find a time for our Emergency Management Task Force to meet with you and discuss how our task force and FEMA ODIC could work more closely together to improve outcomes for people with disabilities and disaster-impacted communities during and after a disaster. You can reach Claire Stanley at [Claire.stanley@ndrn.org](mailto:Claire.stanley@ndrn.org).)

Sincerely,

CCD Emergency Management Task Force

Co-Chairs

Claire Stanley

Marice Roth

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