

Ways your community can engage in disaster response and preparedness:

*Fund programs that educate individuals and families on how to develop their own disaster plan – where to go and what to do post disaster.

*Bolster the funding of local organizations that will be on the front lines following a disaster – food banks, homeless shelters and programs, elderly and child care programs. Fund their staffing and programs that plan for disasters.

*Research a core group of organizations ahead of time that you will grant to immediately following a disaster. This group of organizations is ideally already working with vulnerable populations and in providing immediate relief to underserved, even in “blue-sky” times.

*Work with local not-for-profits to develop a disaster emergency plan and then vet them to receive funds immediately following a disaster to implement those plans.

Additional Points to Remember

*Recovery is a marathon, not a sprint.

*Major disasters mean a long recovery and rebuilding process and can take between 5 and 10 years before a community has returned to a state of normalcy.

*Dollars raised for immediate relief efforts often dwarfs the amount of money donated for long-term recovery

*Long-term operational funding for community recovery requires attentive grant making, and both large and small grants can have a huge impact.

*Grantmaking that is patient and flexible is essential.