Integrated Disaster Housing Recovery Planning

Jae Park, PhD, CFM
Disasters Are Very Costly

![Graph showing annual cost of disasters in the United States from 1985 to 2010. Peaks in 2005 and 2013, with notable events such as Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992.]

Source: NOAA, NCDC, 2013

Integrated Disaster Housing Recovery Planning
Disaster Impacts on Housing – Glances of Katrina in MS

• More than $1.1B FEMA IHP funds were approved for 272,000 households in MS

• More than 101,000 people were temporarily housed in nearly 37,500 FEMA travel trailers (TTs) and mobile homes

Source: MEMA
Disaster Impacts on Housing Hurricane Sandy – New York and New Jersey

• New York
  – Individual Assistance (IA) Applications Approved: over $1B for 117,483 households

• New Jersey
  – IA Applications Approved: $750M for 61,313 households

As of 08/27/2013
Lessons Learned from Recent Disasters

• Housing recovery will last for several years after a disaster
• Long-term housing recovery should be integrated into emergency management
• Low-income households have fewer housing options
• Accommodation of functional needs population requirements
• Limited interim and transitional housing options in urban areas
• Limited window of opportunity to integrate resilience
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Disaster Housing Plan

• Recognizes housing recovery as the first important step for disaster recovery
• Operational and compatible with comprehensive emergency management plan
• Encourages resilient reconstruction
• Promotes development of coalitions at the State and local levels
• Designed to integrate FEMA, U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and other federal housing programs
MA Disaster Housing Plan

Integrated Disaster Housing Recovery Planning
Integration into Emergency Operation

MEMA Operations

MAESF 6 Lead Coordinating Agency

Alternately, housing need beyond sheltering identified

MAESF 14 (MEMA)

Activates MA Recovery Plan & Recovery Annexes

Debris Management Annex

Disaster Housing Annex

Coordiates based on damage and housing needs assessment

MA Disaster Housing Task Force

Interim Housing

Until Long-Term or Permanent Housing Identified

While working toward

Long-Term Housing

Permanent

Sheltering
Disaster Housing Task Force

Core Members

• MEMA
• Department of Housing and Community Development
• Department of Public Safety
• Division of Insurance
• Executive Office of Administration and Finance
• MassDevelopment

Associate Members

• HUD
• FEMA
• MA Housing Finance Agency
• Regional Planning Agencies
• Local Housing Recovery Representative (i.e., Massachusetts Municipal Association)
• Private Sector
• Other State Agency Reps
Nine Housing Recovery Functions

- Housing Damage and Needs Assessment
- Debris Management
- Critical Lifeline and Infrastructure Restoration
- Temporary Housing
- Volunteers and Donations
- Environmental and Historic Preservation and Insurance
- Hazard Mitigation and Redevelopment
- Recovery Administration, Contracting, and Finance
- Public Information and External Affairs
Temporary Housing

• May last several weeks to 18 months

• FEMA Temporary Housing
  – Local ordinance for allowing temporary housing units (e.g., TTs) on private property
  – Urban areas and inner city

• Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power (STEP) Pilot Program
  – Residential electrical meter repairs
  – Shelter essential measures
  – Rapid temporary exterior repairs
Temporary Housing

• MS Alternative Housing Pilot Program

• NY Urban Post-Disaster Housing Prototype Program
Environmental and Historic Preservation and Insurance

• Compliance with environmental and historic preservation regulations and floodplain management regulations

  – Temporary housing set up
  – Review permit applications
  – Inspect repairs or new construction projects for compliance with regulations
  – Review ordinance required for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
Hazard Mitigation and Redevelopment

- Apply hazard mitigation measures (e.g., elevation)
- Adopt or update building codes
- Flood damage prevention ordinances
- New infrastructure and capital improvement outside high-hazard areas
- Green building and infrastructure
- Purchase flood insurance
Recovery Administration, Contracting, and Finance

• Develop/update a list of available funding sources
• Working with NGOs and non-profit organizations
• Tracking recovery funding and compliance
Public Information and External Affairs

- Sharing current and accurate information
  - Identify one or more spokespersons
  - Develop templates for messages
  - Release information regularly to the public, to property owners, and to the press

- Disaster Recovery Centers
  - Provide technical, legal, and financial counseling assistance
Challenges Ahead

• Climate change and resilience
• Interim housing for urban areas
• Data sharing
• Leverage federal and state funding programs
Thank You