

Systemic Racism: Disasters Expose It – How Do We Address It?

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Moderator

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- Submit questions using Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.
- Use **#CDP4Recovery** to tweet along during the webinar.

Land Acknowledgement

“Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth.”

<https://usdac.us/nativeland>



Overview of Risk

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Disasters are often depicted as great levelers, victimizing rich and poor alike. The effects of disasters on populations are anything but random... The disaster vulnerability of individuals and groups is associated with a number of socioeconomic factors that include income, poverty, and social class; race, ethnicity, and culture; physical ability and disability; language competency; social networks and social capital; gender; household composition; homeownership; and age... The same factors that disadvantage members of society on a daily basis also play out during disasters.

~ Dr. Kathleen Tierney, [The Social Roots of Risk: Producing Disasters, Promoting Resilience](#)



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The Groundwater Metaphor

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- *“The Groundwater metaphor is designed to help practitioners at all levels internalize the reality that we live in a racially structured society, and that that is what causes racial inequity. The metaphor is based on three observations:*
 - ▣ *Racial inequity looks the same across systems.*
 - ▣ *Socio-economic difference does not explain the racial inequity.*
 - ▣ *Inequities are caused by systems, regardless of people’s culture or behavior.*

- *Embracing these truths forces leaders to confront the reality that all our systems, institutions, and outcomes emanate from the racial hierarchy on which the United States was built. In other words, we have a ‘groundwater’ problem, and we need ‘groundwater’ solutions. Starting from there, we begin to unlock transformative change.”*

– Racial Equity Institute



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Examples of Disaster Marginalization

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- ❑ People with disabilities are at increased risk of morbidity and mortality during a disaster.
- ❑ At least 25-40 percent of homeless youth are members of the LGBTQ+ community.
- ❑ According to the Brookings Institution, the average length of displacement for a refugee is between 10 and 26 years.



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FEMA's National Advisory Council

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“While it is not the role of FEMA to dismantle a series of systems that cause inequity, it is within the role of FEMA to recognize these inequities (and the disparities caused by them) and ensure that existing or new FEMA programs, policies, and practices do not exacerbate them.”

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nac-report_11-2020.pdf



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Speakers

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Dr. Cassandra R. Davis
Research Professor, *Department of
Public Policy, University of North
Carolina
at Chapel Hill*



Karla López del Río
Associate Director,
*Center for Social Innovation,
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Dr. Cassandra R. Davis

Research Professor

Department of Public Policy,

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



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Understanding our History

Historically, People of Color (POC) were prevented from owning land or quality land.

- U.S. Slavery (1539), Indian Removal Act (1830), The Chinese Exclusion Act of (1882), The Home Owner's Loan Act (1933), The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of (1944), to name a few.

POC received low quality resources based on where they lived.

- Schools, utilities, access to food and health

Little to no generational wealth and mobility for families of color

- Meritocracy the myth

Historical Examples

- Newly Freed Slaves – Repeated hurricanes & floods
- Chinese Immigrants – 1906 San Francisco Earthquake
- Former Residents of Puerto Rico, “En mi Viejo San Juan” (Noel Estranda) – Hurricane Maria

Natural hazard exacerbates pre-existing conditions (Kates et al, 2006)

As local damages increase, so does wealth inequality by race, education and homeownership (Howell & Elliot, 2019)



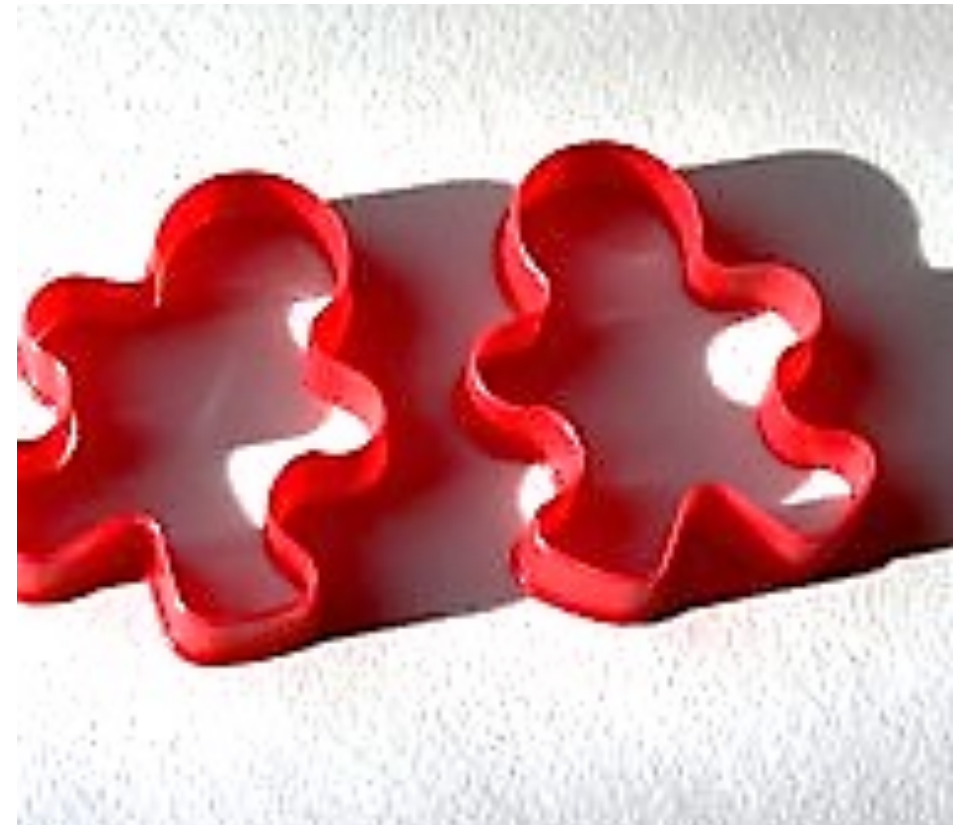
Moving from “vulnerability”

What is social vulnerability and why we aren't using it?

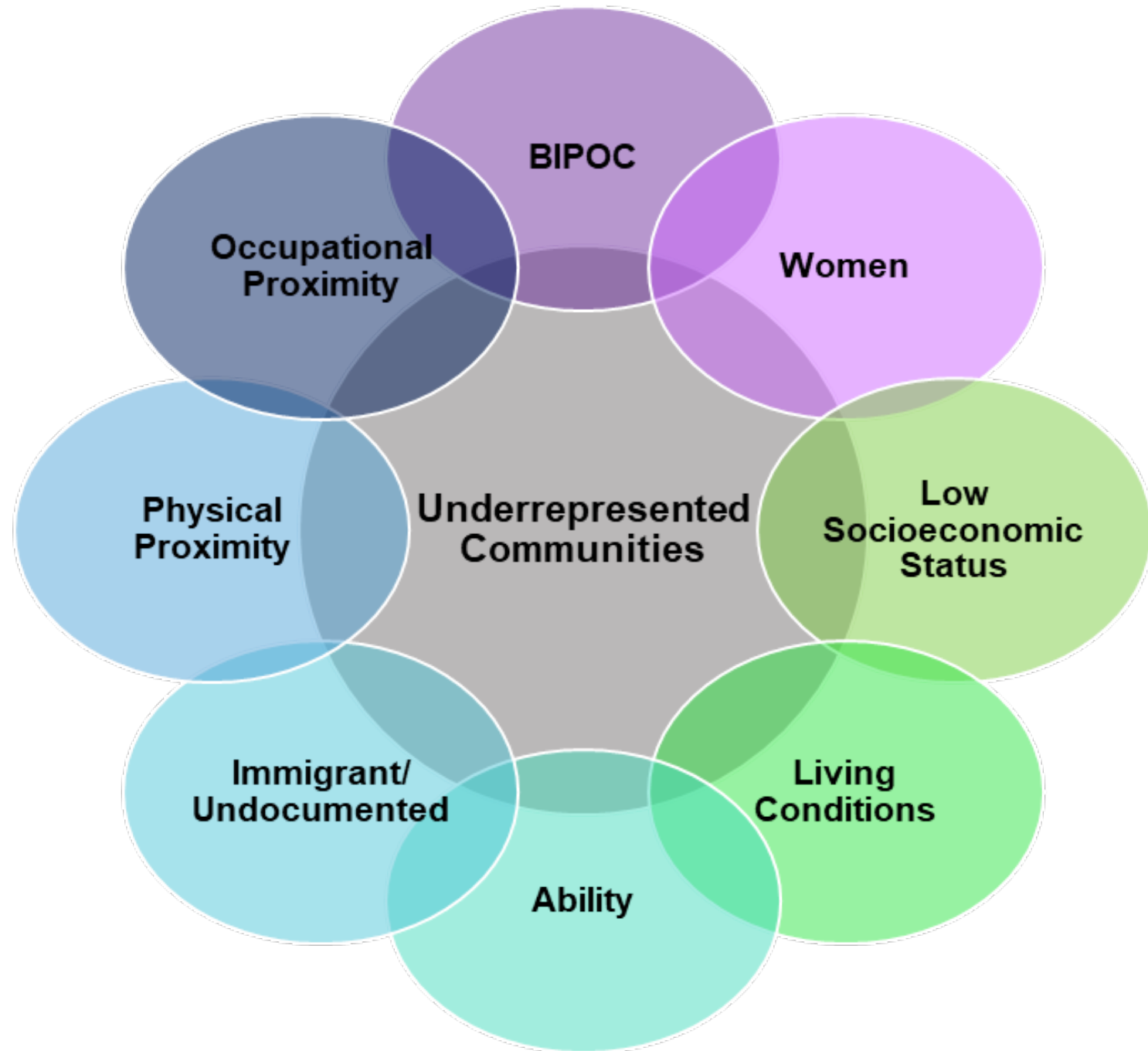
- Socioeconomic characteristics of a group and their potential exposure to risk
- Does not consider historical and social factors that disproportionately impact recovery for groups
- Vulnerable suggests a static state and denotes weakness

Instead...

- We use **socially marginalized** or **underrepresented** in its place
- Through these terms, stakeholders have a clear assessment of the burden, stress and indirect effects of natural hazards on subgroups



Intersectionality



Supports Provided to Students & Educators

What supports were provided to students and school personnel following Hurricane Matthew?

Support Provided	Provided to Students	Provided to Personnel
Adjustment to school calendar	86.0%	74.8%
Personal supplies to take home	56.8%	8.8%
School supplies	56.1%	8.4%
Shelters for personal use/housing	41.8%	6.0%
Free meals at the school	35.5%	6.0%
Referrals to agencies	35.1%	5.5%
Financial support	34.5%	4.5%
Transportation	33.9%	1.9%
Mental healthcare providers	33.3%	4.2%

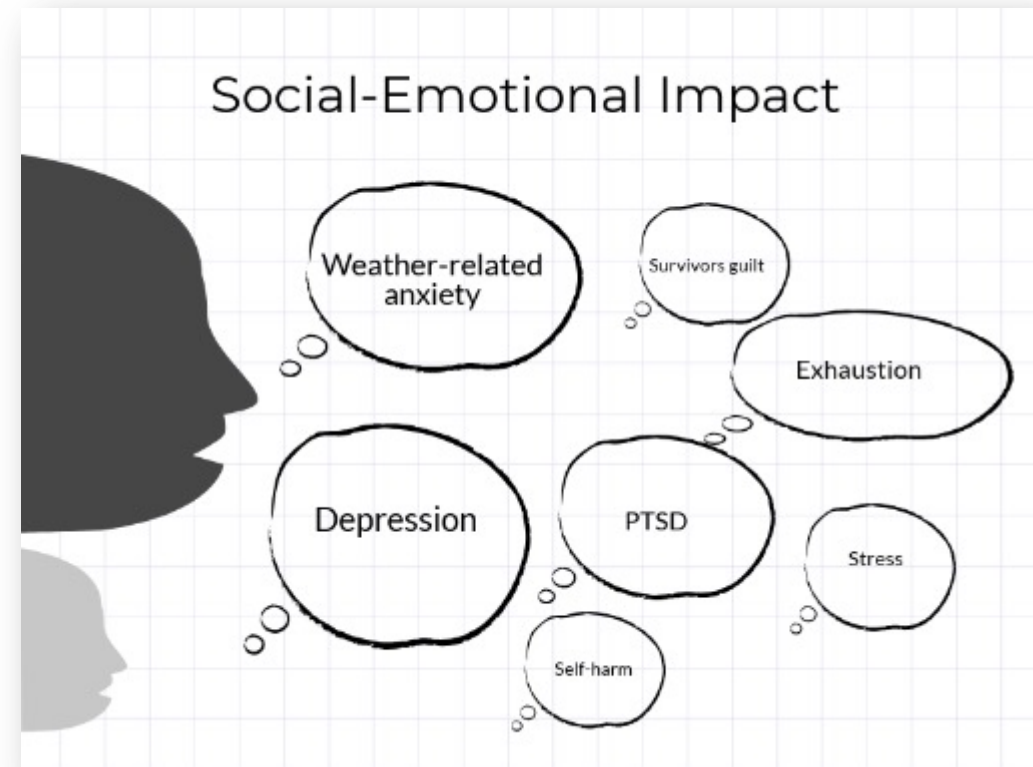
Connections between Hurricanes & the COVID-19 Pandemic

General Findings

- Continuation of stress – immediate and lingering stressors
- Mental health ripple effects on academics, behavior, and attendance
- What was missing? – “Mental health providers”

Lessons Learned from Educators

- Provide counseling services
- Be responsive to the needs of educators & students





Karla López del Río
Associate Director
*Center for Social Innovation,
Census Legacies*



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About Census Legacies

Initiative that builds on the foundation of Census coalitions to create stronger, more inclusive, and more equitable communities

- ◆ Growing network—of funders, nonprofits, businesses, government agencies, and Census coalitions from around the country
- ◆ Seeking to re-purpose Census outreach tables and ensuring that historically undercounted communities have an equal voice in shaping the future of our regions.



Advisory Group

(list in formation)

Philanthropy-serving organizations

United Philanthropy Forum
Fundors' Committee for Civic Participation
Philanthropy Northwest

Philanthropies

Ford Foundation
Blue Shield of California Foundation
The California Endowment
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Wallace H. Coulter Foundation

Business associations

Ready Nation

Nonprofits & nonprofit coalitions

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
National Urban Indian Family Coalition
National League of Cities
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
Housing California
Center on Policy Initiatives
Houston in Action

Government agencies

California Secretary of State
Colorado Secretary of State

Census & philanthropy experts

Mahvash Hassan
Terri Ann Lowenthal
Chris Wagaman



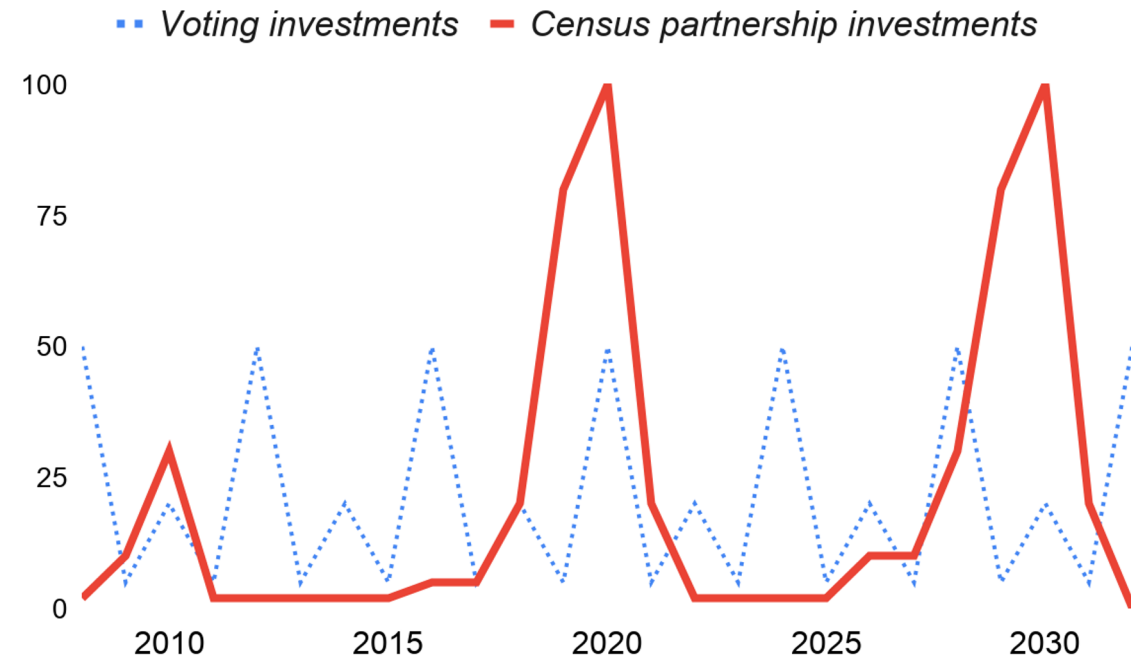
Key Insights from Census Outreach

1. **Trusted messengers are essential**
 - ◆ Trust in government low, varies by partisanship
2. **“Community input” needs to be all-inclusive**
 - ◆ Communities of color, Indigenous, immigrant communities, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, more
3. **Co-designed solutions, with community organizations as equal partners**
 - ◆ Recognition of community expertise by philanthropy, government agencies, other decision makers



4. Avoid 10-year Boom-Bust Cycles in Community Partnerships!

Like Integrated Voter Engagement “IVE,” think of ICP - “Integrated Community Partnerships”





Civic Infrastructure - Definition

All of the **organizational structures, networks, and partnerships** necessary for a well-functioning society.

(akin to capital investments in bridges, roads, and tunnels to ensure efficient, effective, and equitable delivery of goods and services)



Civic Infrastructure: Components / Assets

1. **Interagency coordination**
 - a. Vertical
 - b. Horizontal within counties
 - c. Horizontal across counties
2. **Community Media**
 - a. Media that serves communities of color
 - b. Media with expertise in communities of color
 - c. Social media / virtual communities
3. **Faith based organizations** (large and small, federated and grass-roots)
4. **Nonprofits**
 - a. Service providers
 - b. Advocacy and base-building organizations
5. **Corporate social responsibility to community**
 - a. Large and small business
6. **Schools, libraries, universities**
7. **Philanthropy and other civil society actors**



Civic Infrastructure: Connectivity

- ❑ **Trust**
 - ❑ Generalized trust
 - ❑ Particularized trust (partner-specific and application-specific)
- ❑ **Information sharing**
- ❑ **Relationship building**
- ❑ **Learning and Persuasion**
 - ❑ Especially about equity and logistical challenges
 - ❑ Peer-to-peer, mediated, “web of persuasion”
- ❑ **Continuum of governance**
 - ❑ Marginalization and Tokenization
 - ❑ Mobilization (episodic)
 - ❑ Movement-building and Empowerment
 - ❑ Shared governance



Promising Examples

- ❑ Epicenter New York
- ❑ Philadelphia
- ❑ Fair Count (Georgia)
- ❑ Florida Civic Engagement Table
- ❑ Miami-Dade Office of New Americans
- ❑ Houston in Action
- ❑ Ventura County: “Complete Reach Committee”
- ❑ Tri-County Community Partnership
 - ❑ Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial County



Enhances VOAD and other disaster response

- ❑ Long-term relationships on the ground improve communication among trusted messengers and makes messaging much more efficient.
- ❑ Community-based organizations can leverage volunteer efforts with other local resources, such as funding, community social capital, including more volunteers/staff



Equity in Disaster Preparedness

- ❑ Proactive vs. Reactive Equitable Rapid Response
- ❑ Equity needs to be part of design, not just implementation
- ❑ Requires short- and long-term commitment



Early Demonstration

- ❑ Tri-County Community Partnership
- ❑ Resilient Communities Database



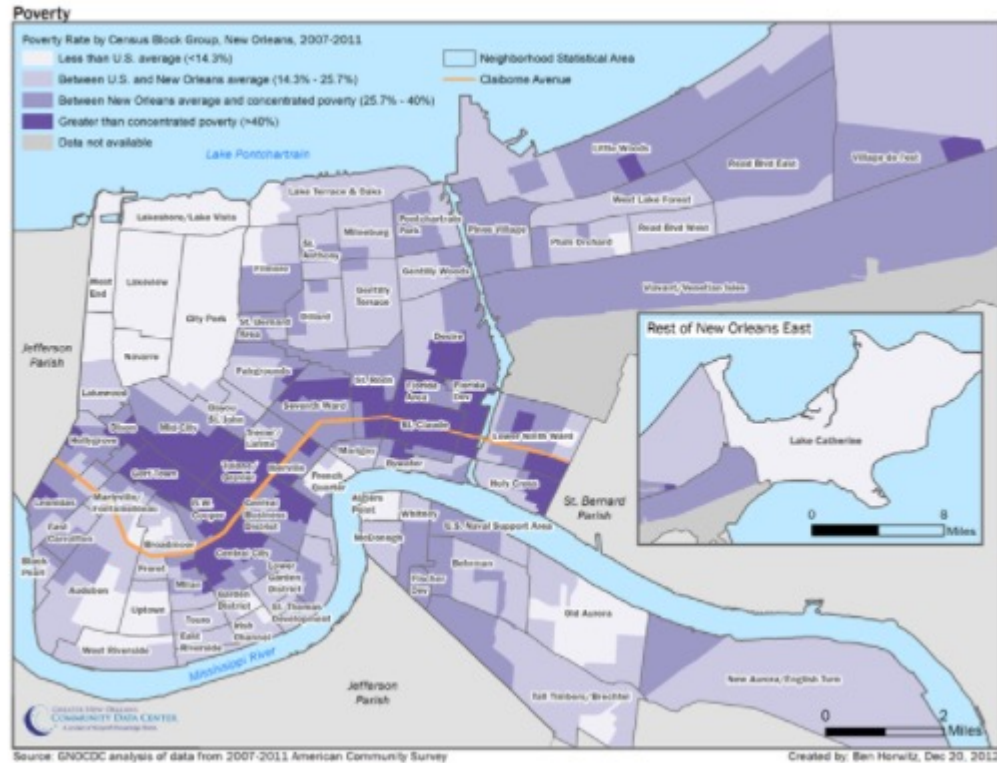
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Katrina Impact

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Low Educational Attainment



Low-wage Workers



Cost-Burdened Renters



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Climate Justice

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Building Diverse Networks

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Q and A

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Key Takeaways

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- ❑ Philanthropists need to embed an equitable disaster recovery framework into their grantmaking.
- ❑ Philanthropy should be relational, not transactional.
- ❑ Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities must be prioritized.
- ❑ This work cannot be done in isolation and root causes need to be addressed.
- ❑ Build networks and connections in advance of a disaster.

CDP Resources

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- ❑ CDP has a California Wildfires Recovery Fund, Atlantic Hurricane Season Recovery Fund, Global Disaster Recovery Fund, Disaster Recovery Fund and COVID-19 Response Fund.
- ❑ Detailed Issue Insights.
- ❑ Regularly updated Disaster Profiles.
- ❑ For more information, visit www.disasterphilanthropy.org.



Photo credit: CORE



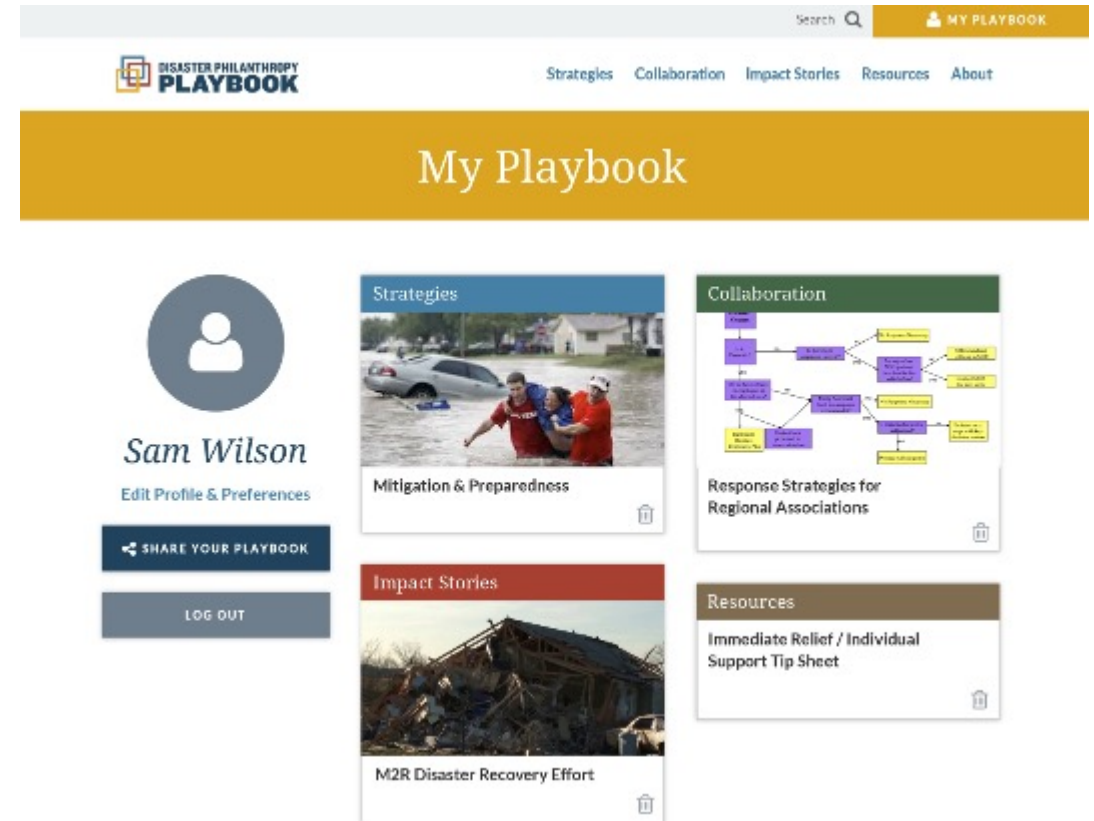
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DISASTER PHILANTHROPY PLAYBOOK

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- ❑ The Disaster Playbook has a number of toolkits and resources to guide the philanthropic community in responding to future disasters.
- ❑ Learn more at www.disasterplaybook.org



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Our Next Webinar

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- Join us **June 10 at 2 p.m. ET** for our next webinar:
*COVID-19 Check-Up –
Assessing Response and
Planning Recovery*



Photo credit: Save the Children



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Questions?

For additional information, contact:

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