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

May 13, 2021
Moderator

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia
Director of Learning and Partnerships,
Center for Disaster Philanthropy
Thank You to Our Co-Sponsors

This webinar is co-sponsored by:

[Logos of ABFE, CHANGE PHILANTHROPY, ncrp, NATIVE AMERICANS IN PHILANTHROPY, United Philanthropy Forum, and Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity]
How to Participate

- Look for the fully captioned webinar recording and summary at disasterphilanthropy.org.
  - Live captioning is available now via Zoom. Click on Closed Caption/Live Transcript to access it.

- Submit questions using Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.

- Use #CDP4Recovery to tweet along during the webinar.
“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
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*
The Groundwater Metaphor

“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
Examples of Disaster Marginalization

- 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.
“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.”

Speakers

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, Census Legacies

Flozell Daniels
President and CEO, Foundation for Louisiana
Dr. Cassandra R. Davis
Research Professor
Department of Public Policy,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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)
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 disproportionally 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

- BIPOC
- Women
- Low Socioeconomic Status
- Immigrant/Undocumented
- Ability
- Living Conditions
- Underrepresented Communities
- Physical Proximity
- Occupational Proximity
### What supports were provided to students and school personnel following Hurricane Matthew?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Provided</th>
<th>Provided to Students</th>
<th>Provided to Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adjustment to school calendar</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
<td>74.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal supplies to take home</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School supplies</td>
<td>56.1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelters for personal use/housing</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food meals at the school</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referrals to agencies</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental/medical providers</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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
Funders’ 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

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

Business associations
Ready Nation

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

#CensusLegacies
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
Flozell Daniels, Jr.
President and CEO
Foundation for Louisiana
Climate Justice
Building Diverse Networks
Submit questions using the Q & A box at the bottom of your screen.

Use #CDP4Recovery to tweet insights.
Key Takeaways

- 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

- 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](http://www.disasterphilanthropy.org).

Photo credit: CORE
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
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*
Questions?

For additional information, contact:

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia
Director of Learning and Partnerships
Tanya.Gulliver-Garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org