

Wednesday, May 21	Session Title	Description	Track	Presenter(s)
Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	State Service Commissions and Disaster Services: Roles State Service Commissions Play in Disaster Preparation and Response	<p>When disaster strikes, communities need immediate help. For many years, AmeriCorps has provided services in the wake of disasters, often the first to arrive and the last to leave. In many places, state and territorial service commissions deploy and organize AmeriCorps members and local volunteers on the ground in communities impacted by disaster, both natural and person-made. During this session, you will learn how commissions partner with local and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and others to leverage the full power of AmeriCorps programs, members, and volunteers. Examples and case studies will be shared in how commissions leveraged resources to be able to provide response and recovery efforts to events.</p>	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Chad Driscoll
Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	Multi-State Collaboration in Disaster Response: Going the Distance Together	<p>When Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida, it wasn't just Florida that felt the storm's impact—North Carolina also faced severe consequences. In the midst of this shared disaster, the collaboration between state emergency management agencies, voluntary organizations, and disaster response networks became a vital lifeline. This session will highlight the power of multi-state coordination, showing how Florida and North Carolina utilized their shared network to support each other's response and recovery efforts, despite being hundreds of miles apart.</p> <p>The most notable example of this collaboration was the simultaneous opening of Multi-Agency Donation Warehouses in both states. By leveraging established relationships through national and regional VOAD networks, both states could quickly and efficiently manage donations, ensuring timely support for survivors. This partnership provided an opportunity to share best practices, coordinate resources, and maintain momentum in disaster response, illustrating how the strength of a unified disaster response network can go the distance.</p> <p>Through this session, we will explore the benefits of multi-state collaboration, including the exchange of resources, mutual support, and the integration of disaster operations. Attendees will learn how these practices can be applied in their own states and the critical importance of building and maintaining strong, interwoven networks to address both current and future disasters. Together, we can go the distance to ensure that no state faces a disaster alone.</p>	The 4 C's	Christina Rojas
Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	Direct Financial Assistance as Long-Term Recovery Approach	<p>Episcopal Relief &amp; Development has partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana to respond to long-term recovery needs in South Louisiana following Hurricane Ida with a particular focus on undocumented, mixed-status and families with other complex legal statuses who may struggle to interface with formal government systems. This innovative program partners with trusted immigrant-serving community-based organizations to identify households outside the formal case management system, vet those households and provide them direct financial assistance which they use on their recovery as they see fit. These households are also invited to culturally-specific disaster preparedness trainings, case management, and to a texting platform that allows them to connect with staff and each other during storms and other crises for further resources.</p>	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Katie Mears, Karla Sikaffy duPlantier, Lura Steele, Michelle Aguirre

Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	Eastwick - A Resilient and Sustainable Future	<p>In the middle of the pandemic lock-down, in August 2020, the remnants of tropical storm Isaias damaged dozens of residences in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia. A former red-lined neighborhood of tight-knit community members, the two leading community organizations collaborated with the City's Office of Emergency Management, PA VOAD members, to manage the repair efforts for the residents. In parallel of these efforts, the City's Office of Sustainability created a strategic plan to create and implement a multitude of resilience measures to mitigate future extreme weather events. This workshop will afford the participant the lessons learned by the lead agencies on their successes, opportunities, and a road map for future communities to reduce the recovery time, and maximize community organizations toward a more resilient and sustainable future. This workshop will refer back to our presentation delivered during the NVOAD conference in Baltimore.</p>	Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response	Brian Baer, Ramona Rousseau-Reid, Korin Tangtakul, Denise Shelton
Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	The 4 C's at their Best: Leveraging Recovery Tools Workshop Modules for Local Success	<p>In disaster recovery, "going the distance" requires equipping communities with tools and partnerships that support sustained, effective efforts. The Recovery Tools Workshop (RTWs) modules are invaluable resources for state and local VOADs, yet many remain unaware of their existence or potential impact. This session highlights how Hawai'i VOAD partnered with the NVOAD LTRG Committee to overcome challenges and maximize the impact of these tools.</p> <p>When faced with a lack of local SMEs, Hawai'i VOAD collaborated with the Mentor Sub-Committee to deliver eight RTW presentations over four weeks, held twice weekly. This innovative, virtual approach allowed participants from across the Hawaiian Islands to engage without the burden of travel, creating a sustainable and inclusive model for learning.</p> <p>Participants in this session will learn how to replicate this success by leveraging the RTW modules, fostering partnerships, and securing SMEs. The session will highlight RTW content, offer guidance on accessing and utilizing these resources, and provide actionable strategies for sustaining long-term recovery efforts. By the end of the workshop, attendees will be equipped to "go the distance" in their own communities, building resilience and strengthening recovery networks.</p>	The 4 C's	David Rauer, Mellie Thomas, Matt Gleib
Session 1: 10:15 am - 11:30 am	House for Worship Migrant/Asylum Seeker Sheltering: Government & Faith Sector Solutions	<p>A briefing on and technical assistance workshop on how the New York City leveraged houses of worship to provide dignified, community-centered shelter, hospitality centers and support services for 160,000+ migrants and asylum seekers – a replicable model adaptable for climate refugees and internally displaced populations. This collaborative initiative between New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), the NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery, and NYC Emergency Management not only met urgent shelter needs but also strengthened the role of houses of worship to meet mass care needs. Participants will learn actionable strategies to develop and sustain houses of worship shelters in their own communities, including program design, resource management, and community engagement. This session will provide practical tools and resources, case studies, and innovative approaches to integrating houses of worship and FBOs into humanitarian efforts.</p>	Training & Education	Jonathan Oliver, Laura Sword, Emily Ashton, Peter Gudaitis