

Thursday, May 22	Session Title	Description	Track	Presenter(s)
Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am	Increasing Food System Resilience Through Long Term Recovery	<p>The USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and FEMA Region 2 are excited to submit this abstract for admission into the 2025 National VOAD conference. The USDA Center and FEMA Region 2 long term recovery team have been collaborating over the years to support technical assistance and capacity building of its stakeholders, specifically in the US Virgin Islands in response to ongoing Hurricanes and the COVID-19 pandemic. The team has provided access to customer service resources, subject matter experts, and facilitated peer to peer connections to support the work of on the ground partners to build resilience specifically in the agricultural and food systems sector. This has included close collaboration with the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition, and a planning process to host the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition Summit in February 2024. The convening brought together 200 in the U.S. Virgin Islands to discuss best practices, highlight innovation in food systems transformation, provide training and skill building for farmers and ranchers, and facilitate peer to peer engagement with regional partners.</p> <p>The presentation will feature a discussion of cases and best practices highlighted from the core organizing partners, as well as an interactive component where session attendees will participate in a series of scenarios. Discussion will also highlight how Federal, State, and Local Partners can collaborate to developing an enabling environment for local and regional food systems development.</p>	The 4 C's	Alex Cordova, Courtney long, Sommer Sibilly-Brown
Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am	Filling the Gaps in Disaster Response and Recovery - Use of CERT	<p>The 2024 hurricane season highlighted the invaluable role of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in Florida, especially in rural communities that often face unique challenges during disaster response and recovery. CERT teams, with their diverse skill sets and local knowledge, are crucial in filling gaps across donation management, long-term recovery efforts, sheltering, and more. This session will explore how CERT teams were strategically deployed in Florida's rural counties during the 2024 hurricane season to support and enhance disaster recovery operations.</p> <p>Rural communities often struggle with limited resources, which can result in slower recovery times and delayed services. In response, CERT teams were activated to assist with donation management, help local Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs), and provide shelter operations, ensuring that communities were not left behind. CERT volunteers played a vital role in managing and distributing donations, assisting in the operation of shelters, and supporting recovery coordination between local and state agencies.</p> <p>This session will focus on the successes of CERT deployments in Florida, emphasizing their role in bridging gaps between local and state resources and their impact on disaster recovery. We will share real-world examples of CERT teams in action, discuss best practices for integrating CERT teams into disaster operations, and highlight how they can be a critical component in the recovery process—especially in rural areas.</p> <p>By the end of this session, attendees will understand the power of CERT teams in filling gaps and supporting rural communities during disaster recovery, showcasing how these teams “go the distance” to help communities rebuild.</p>	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Gannon Gan, Christy Rojas

<p>Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Mobile and Manufactured Home Residents: The Challenges in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Legal Issues</p>	<p>Manufactured and mobile home residents face a myriad of challenges, often struggling to be recognized as legitimate communities and homeowners/residents.</p> <p>Preparation is challenging and disaster response is often hampered by people's perceptions of these communities and homes. This is complicated by who owns the land and who owns the home, which may not be the same. For these reasons and more, the communities are not included in preparation activities and often wait for response after those in single or multi-family homes, and yet the need is at least as significant and the community ties often stronger.</p> <p>Repair is also challenging. Homes can be either mobile or fixed to the land. Options may be limited for older homes and wait times for reputable experts may be significant. Repairs can also be hampered by ownership issues.</p> <p>All these challenges mean that residents can encounter complex, layered legal issues, including those questions of personal versus real property, repossession versus foreclosure, and landlord-tenant versus contractual relationships among others. This panel will explore these issues and examine emerging disaster-related challenges, including new ownership dynamics and investment patterns that affect these communities.</p>	<p>Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response</p>	<p>Kristine Hansen, Brian Candelaria, Peter Dennis</p>
<p>Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Responding to Climate Disasters and Human Displacement Caused by Rapid Climate Degradation</p>	<p>Given the increasing frequency and severity of climate-induced disasters, it is clear that as a sector we need to shift how to respond now and in the coming years. People are already beginning to relocate because of disaster impacts, risks and costs, and this will only continue. This panel will discuss how to address these challenges in various ways, both through local House of Worship resilience hubs supporting displacement and resettlement in sending and receiving communities and other innovative and replicable programming models. We will also discuss how to access data to determine where to focus programming outside of directly impacted geographies in order to better prepare support for migrating populations.</p>	<p>Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response</p>	<p>Peter Gudaitis, Jono Anzalone, Katie Mears, Lucy Cummings</p>

<p>Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Twin Realities: The Arts as Disaster Recovery Partners and Clients</p>	<p>The arts are critical in helping communities heal and recover after disaster, while simultaneously needing to be served by the emergency management system. These twin realities offer us the opportunity to make a significant difference by building stronger mutual understanding and connections.</p> <p>Recent disasters have magnified the role of the arts in community health and recovery, while revealing the confusion and challenges many artists and nonprofit arts organizations experience in navigating assistance channels after a crisis. Artists and creatives, often the 'heart' of their community, are prone to passing up resources and help they are entitled to, on top of the fact that the pipelines through which federal and other public support is available can be frustrating and opaque. This means artists/creatives are less able to return to their work, contribute to the local economy, and assist their communities through arts activities which provide healing and distraction.</p> <p>With a greater understanding of how the arts operate and can be part of the response and recovery process, responders can support and access partners and resources they otherwise may overlook. Experiences from the recent Kentucky tornadoes and floods, Lahaina wildfires and Hurricane Helene will serve as the backdrop for our conversation. The conversation will be informed by impact data from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, and "Kentucky Arts in Disaster: An Impact Report," published by the University of Kentucky, which dives into these twin realities and offers recommendations based on the 2021 Eastern Kentucky tornadoes and 2022 Western Kentucky flood events.</p>	<p>The 4 C's</p>	<p>Mollie Quinlan-Hayes, Leah Hamilton, Janet Newcomb</p>
<p>Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Building Disaster Financial Resilience (DFR) - People, Small Businesses, Non-Profits, Government, and Communities</p>	<p>This workshop, led by private & public partners, shares case studies of successes in collaborative efforts to build Disaster Financial Resilience, through practical case studies and tool kits. Join to see highlights of how these programs can be repeatable in other communities and/or organizations – with very practical timely steps for impact THIS season in 2025. Leaders will share stories and data of innovation in CareTech and FinTech applied to Disaster, and more broadly to programs to build financial resilience to longer term programs to support UBI, food and housing insecurity, more. Share about this "tech with a heart" in delivering funds to people in need – 1x or long term – fast, safe, with dignity. Share optional offering for Funders (non-profits, government, corporates), to add functionality to address/minimize waste, fraud and abuse, minimize accounting costs, and be well ready for audits (IRS, donors, AGs, etc.). These in-the-trenches stories share the successes and challenges to date, including powerful learnings on the application of best-in-class technologies – with compassion and results – including to those hardest to reach – the un/underbanked.</p> <p>This cross sector panelist group specifically includes top leadership across these critical areas for any successful program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Academia (top in this disaster space) •Non-profit (who works with State and Local government) •FinTech •Convener across these sectors (who works across Fed, State, Local govt, and sectors above) 	<p>The 4 C's</p>	<p>Kirsten Trusko, Regardt Ferreira, Carla Harward, Louise Holden</p>

<p>Session 4: 9:45 am - 11:00 am</p>	<p>Navigating the Journey: Disaster Case Management for Long-Term Recovery</p>	<p>Disaster recovery is a long journey, requiring sustained and coordinated efforts to meet the needs of survivors. This workshop will provide participants with knowledge and tools to establish and manage effective Disaster Case Management (DCM) programs.</p> <p>The session will explore how DCM programs—whether federal, locally initiated, or VOAD-supported—integrate with Long-Term Recovery Groups to deliver holistic support to disaster survivors. Participants will learn about implementing DCM programs before federal activation and operating in diverse contexts without federal support. The presentation will highlight practical strategies, share real-world success stories, and offer actionable tools for fostering collaboration, ensuring that survivors receive consistent and effective assistance throughout their recovery journey.</p> <p>By the end of the workshop, attendees will understand how to develop a resilient, survivor-centered DCM program tailored to their community's unique needs, ensuring they are equipped to go the distance in their efforts in disaster recovery.</p>	<p>Training & Education</p>	<p>Mellie Thomas, Julia Frank, Dominique Stephenson</p>
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