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NEW FEDERAL DISASTER GUIDANCE DESIGNED TO PROTECT CIVIL RIGHTS OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

The Fair Share Housing Center, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, the Mississippi Center for Justice, the National Fair Housing Alliance, Texas Appleseed, and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service have issued the following statement in response to [new federal guidance](#) aimed at protecting civil rights during the response to and recovery from major disasters:

"We welcome the new federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice reinforcing the existing civil rights protections in federal disaster response and recovery programs that are intended to ensure communities of color are not left behind in disaster planning, response and recovery. With the tragic flooding in Louisiana and the ever-increasing number of disasters across the country, we look to these new guidelines to help ensure equitable and effective recovery efforts.

Our organizations worked closely with the federal government to implement the lessons we learned in federal disaster responses from Hurricane Katrina to Hurricane Ike and Superstorm Sandy to ensure that future disaster recovery efforts treat all families and communities fairly and equitably.

We believe these guidelines are an important step toward ensuring that federal recovery money is spent in the way it was intended, to meet the needs of all communities. This guidance reaffirms our highest ideals as a country that no one should be denied the opportunity to rebuild after a natural disaster because of the color of their skin or their national origin. We look forward to working with federal, state and local governments to ensure that these guidelines are properly implemented at all levels to rebuild strong and resilient communities."