

Hurricane Harvey – One year later.

How is Houston Making Its Disaster Planning Disability Inclusive?



MARIA TOWN

DIRECTOR

MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CITY OF HOUSTON

Introduction: Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities



Who We Are

- Established in 1993.
- Serve as the primary advocate for the rights and needs of citizens with disabilities.
- Serves as a liaison between the mayor, city council, city departments and other public and private entities on matters pertaining to people with disabilities in Houston.
- Works closely with the Houston Commission on Disabilities.

Introduction: Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities



What We Do

- Trainings and awareness programs
- Sidewalk fixes
- Free visual fire alarms
- Provide free legal clinics for people with disabilities
- Employment services
- Case management
- Policy and program recommendations to the Mayor, city and state leaders and private entities
- Work closely with the Houston Commission on Disabilities

Role During Harvey

- Community Coordination
- Durable Medical Equipment Replacement
- Information Sharing
- Liaising with Emergency Responders and City, State and Federal Departments
- Shelter Resources
- Advocacy on Behalf of Individuals and Communities



Realities A Year After Harvey



- \$4.29 billion have been distributed directly from the federal government to affected residents.
 - 26,400 Houstonians filed Flood Insurance claims;
 - 136,122 approved registrations for FEMA Individual Assistance claims.
 - 28,957 Individual assistance registrations with identified access and functional needs,
- The City of Houston data analysis shows that 169,000 residential buildings in Houston were affected, accounting for 317,000 households.
- The City of Houston has still not received any Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery dollars.

Realities A Year After Harvey



- City of Houston and Harris County voters approved a \$2.5 billion flood bond.
- The City of Houston has established 14 Neighborhood resiliency centers.
- Community organizations continue to lead through the Long Term Recovery Committee.
- Harvey was equal opportunity in its destruction, but not in its aftermath.
- Houston is navigating Harvey recovery while continuing to recover from previous disasters.



A Seat at the Tables



- The MOPD is now a part of the City of Houston's Recovery Leadership Team and a part of the State of Texas' Division of Emergency Management Disabilities Planning Subcommittee.
- Houston Commission on Disabilities Committee on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response now connected to the Office of Emergency Management, Public Works, and Housing Departments.
- Housing Department engagement of the disability community on Texas General Land Office Action Plans and beyond.
- The MOPD has convened disability-specific groups for community driven recommendations for inclusive preparedness.

City Repair Requirements for Public and Private Construction



- Harvey created an opportunity for Houston to become more inclusive during and beyond times of disasters.
- Houston Public Works developed an accessibility requirement for all public and private construction projects of \$50,000 or more.
- Potential visitability requirements for CDBG-DR funded rebuilding programs, which could pave the way for a visitability ordinance for the city.

Emergency Registries

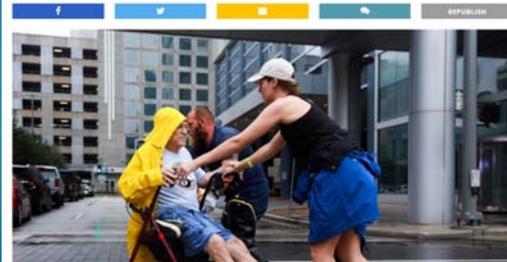


- Currently, the City of Houston can access the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry.
 - Only a few individuals were contacted using STEAR.
- "I don't understand. I was registered and no one come."
- The City is exploring and developing new tools and protocols to contact people with disabilities during disasters.

After Harvey, questions remain about whether registry helped people with disabilities

Texas has a system in place to identify people with disabilities who will need extra help during a natural disaster. But it's unclear how many people actually received help through the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry, or STEAR, during Hurricane Harvey.

BY MARISSA EVANS AUG. 22, 2018 12 AM



Continued Advocacy



- Houston Commission on Disabilities Letter to the Recovery Leadership Team and other recovery partners.
- Houston hosted a FEMA listening session on the experiences of individuals with disabilities.
- Continued advocacy at the Federal and State level for funding, community driven solutions, and changes to FEMA.

TM-M1

Support of Sister Cities



Working with community groups, the MOPD shipped durable medical equipment and consumable medical supplies to Puerto Rico.

Working with the Puerto Rican protection and advocacy provider, equipment was distributed across the island.



Maintaining An Inventory



- Since Harvey, the MOPD has worked to develop and maintain an inventory of some durable medical equipment that can be distributed to individuals and organizations during emergencies.
- Considerations for inventories:
 - Location and Frequency of Disasters
 - Local population needs
 - Expiration dates
 - Climate control

Slide 11

TM-M1 Town, Maria - MYR, 9/11/2018

Building Relationships



- The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities is the only MOPD in the state of Texas.
- Since Harvey, the MOPD has worked to establish relationships with:
 - Emergency management and response entities across the affected region.
 - Local and national non-profit and philanthropic partners
 - Internal City of Houston Partners

Expanding Capacity



- Emergency responder and emergency management training on disability competency & disability rights
- Shelter management improvements around accessibility protocols.
- American Sign Language emergency alerts and ASL fluent 911 responder.



Resources



- Centers for Disease Control – Emergency Preparedness: Including People with Disabilities - <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html>
- Ready.gov – Individuals with Access and Functional Needs <https://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>
- Red Cross – Disaster Safety for People with Disabilities <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/disaster-safety-for-people-with-disabilities.html>
- FEMA – Accessible Emergency Management <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/disaster-safety-for-people-with-disabilities.html>

Resources



- The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies – Integrating Disability Into Emergency Management: A Blue Print for Saving Lives http://disasterstrategies.org/application/files/2315/3229/1809/Integrating_Disability_Into_Emergency_Management24426.compressed.pdf
- The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies – 2017/2018 After Action Report – Getting It Wrong: An Indictment with a Blueprint for Getting It Right <http://www.disasterstrategies.org/index.php/news/partnership-releases-2017-2018-after-action-report>
- Texans for Special Education Reform – Special Education Guidance for Families of Children with Disabilities Affected by Hurricane Harvey <https://www.texans4spedreform.org/hurricane/>
- Disability Rights Texas – Housing Rights Information for People with Disabilities Impacted by Hurricane Harvey <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/publication/housing-rights-information-for-people-with-disabilities-impacted-by-hurricane-harvey>

Questions



Maria Town
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
832-394-0814
mopdmail@houstontx.gov



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<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonMOPD>
Twitter: @MOPD_Houston