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ELKHART HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

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# NEWSLETTER

[www.elkhartindiana.org/fair-housing](http://www.elkhartindiana.org/fair-housing)

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## FAIR HOUSING & DISASTER RECOVERY

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The Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) includes protections against discrimination for people who need temporary housing and shelter in the aftermath of a disaster.

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### DISABILITY CONSIDERATIONS IN DISASTER

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BY HUD

- Individuals with disabilities face unique barriers due to inaccessible evacuation, response (including shelters, camps, and food distribution), and recovery efforts.
- Disabilities can impact a person in a variety of ways—both physical and mental, visible and invisible. Therefore, there is not one approach to inclusion of persons with disabilities.

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### DISABILITY RIGHTS DURING AND AFTER A DISASTER

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BY HUD

- Reasonable accommodations
- Reasonable modifications
- Accessible housing



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## Communities of color have faced historical barriers to recovery programs, activities, and services.

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### RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND COLOR DISCRIMINATION CONSIDERATIONS IN DISASTER

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- Leverage community resources, leaders and organizations to deliver group educational sessions to support fair housing awareness in communities of color.
- Encourage clients to participate in opportunities for community input regarding recovery planning
- Be aware of program benefit limitations, caps and thresholds that are related to home or property values that historically are lower in segregated communities of color.
- Be aware of geographic exclusions that may deny assistance to harmed communities of color (e.g. Relief for coastal flooding where property values are high, but not wind damage to inland communities with lower property values and higher population of persons of color).
- Encourage and support applications for assistance despite limitations that implicate possible discrimination
- Help impacted persons get in touch with fair housing staff at the Elkhart Human Relations Office to discuss possible discrimination

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