

Southeast Michigan Flood Recovery

BACKGROUND

- On August 11, 2014, the Detroit metro area experienced record breaking rain fall, exceeding 6" in a 4 hour span, causing homes and roadways to become overwhelmed with flood waters
- This flood was the largest FEMA declared disaster in 2014, yet it has been largely forgotten. These floods have come and gone, but they have left behind a host of problems for thousands of homes across Southeast Michigan
- Nearly 129,000 people applied for FEMA assistance after the flood, which made it the largest FEMA disaster in the U.S. during 2014. Current individual assistance provided by FEMA (as of 8-14-15) totals \$311,222,391.84
- Last year, the Michigan Community Service Commission created a call center (the Recovery Coordination Center) with the support of United Way/2-1-1 to apply volunteer assistance which helped coordinate cleanup for nearly 2,000 homes
- This was done via thousands of volunteers both local and nationwide. They assisted in recovery, including 8 VOADs (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)
- More than 150 AmeriCorps members have served nearly 20,000 hours to assist in recovery

CURRENT EFFORTS

- The Southeast Michigan Flood Recovery Group (SEMIFRG) has been created to help provide coordinated management of long-term recovery to residents and provide additional long-term assistance to individuals affected by the disaster who do not have adequate personal resources for basic needs as a result of the disaster
 - Priorities:
 - Establish scope and depth of needs
 - Help to secure and coordinate resources to support recovery (noting the need to maximize effect and efficiency of resources)
 - By-laws, fiduciary, and incorporation established. Ready to accept and provide support
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) represent over 95,000 hours of service. There are still three VOADs currently performing cleaning and rebuild work in the area
- AmeriCorps represents over 22,000 hours of service. A 7 member team has been present this summer, supporting cleaning and rebuild work

OBSTACLES

- Dealing with a very large population of need with low resources/recourse, and the health impact on population is significant and poses a long-term health emergency. Resources do not meet potential need
- Awareness of problem is very low
 - General awareness in the community at large: limits ability to gather resources
 - Specific awareness in the community: limits identification of need to apply resources. Where all efforts in specific neighborhoods of Detroit consistently show high need when canvassed
- Lack of resources. Already low support will continue to decline preventing effective recovery

NEEDS

- Money
 - To secure case management
 - To secure materials
 - To secure manpower
- Materials
 - Cleaning (e.g.: mold)
 - Repair, rebuild, replace (e.g.: broken furnace)
- Manpower
 - ID issues
 - Help repair/rebuild