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# **Beyond the Storm: CILs Leading the Way in Disaster Recovery and Community Support**

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# Who We Are

- Center for Independent Living Gulf Coast (CILGC)
- Florida Independent Living Council (FILC)
- The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (The Partnership)



# Workshop Objectives

This workshop will give you more understanding of:

- Background on ACL disaster funds to IL Network after Hurricane Ian
- How CILs can be involved and support consumers before, during, and after disasters
- How SILCs can support CILs in response and recovery
- Policy solutions to advocate for



# Background

# ACL Supplemental Disaster Funds: Hurricane Ian

- Hurricane Ian made landfall on the Florida Gulf Coast on September 28, 2022.
- HHS/ACL announce [Disaster Assistance for Centers for Independent Living in Florida and Puerto Rico](#) on March 16, 2023.
  - Applications were due April 17, 2023
  - Awards were made in July 2023
  - CILs finished deliverables this September 2024



# ACL Supplemental Disaster Funds

- First time ACL was successful in getting funds to CILs for disaster response work and support to consumers.
- Took 9 months



# **CIL Gulf Coast Before, During, and After Hurricane Ian**

# Before

- Provided emergency preparedness training
- Engage with county emergency management agency and local media outlets
- Inform consumers about disaster resources
- Sent out Public Service Announcement (phone blasts)
- Enacted internal emergency preparedness plan to secure the office





# During

- Disseminated over 725 hot meals with partners
- Provided generators, hygiene kits, water, gasoline, DME, power packs, and much more
- CILGC was a power station hub for people to charge their phones and other small items
- CILGC was a conduit to provide consumers vital information and other community recovery resources



# During

- Conducted access surveys in shelters
- Worked with FEMA, Lee County, State of Florida, Red Cross, Disability Right Florida, and CDR Maguire to ensure accessibility in shelters
  - ADA bathrooms/showers, widening isles throughout the shelter floor, and picking up wire coverings/obstacles on the floor.
- Helped replace durable medical equipment and other disability supplies



# After

- Hosted recovery events with local partners
- Hosted ongoing lan support groups
- Hosted housing workshops
- Continued education and training
- Applied and received State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) disaster funding to support consumers
- Active member of Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG)



# Continued Efforts

- Hiring a disaster recovery person
- Engage in an MOU with county emergency management agency to leverage funding opportunities
- Improving continuity of operations plans, response plans, and communications before, during, and after disasters



# **FILC Support to CILs**

# Before, During, and After

- Daily coordination calls
- Dissemination of information to CILs
- FILC has a seat at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
- Coordinating state support to CILs (gas cards, curfew passes)
- Goal in State Plan on Independent Living (SPIL)



# **Advocacy and Action Items**

# Advocacy & Action Items

- MOUs with county emergency management agency
- Streamlined funding mechanism for CILs vital work before, during, and after disasters
- Preparedness, response, and recovery goals in SPIL and including disaster activities in Program Performance Report (PPR)







# Thank You

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