Staff Reports

Donate to the Disaster Relief Foundation



work my hardest every day to make sure that all members in need receive some form of assistance. This especially applies to those members who have just come through a serious emergency, be that a hurricane, a tornado, a forest or house fire, or another qualifying disaster for the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF). After the DRF was founded at the NALC national convention in 2018, members could finally help other members who were in need of assistance in a real way. We can't always replace what was lost in a

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disaster, but I want you to know that we are always here for our members and their families.

With many disasters affecting our members, contributions to the foundation are as important as ever. Knowing that you contribute to something that directly aids our fellow sisters and brothers in their time of crisis and need is extremely rewarding.

Donations should be sent to: NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and your contribution may be tax deductible. It is recommended that you seek further advice from your tax advisor.

The foundation has been set up to function in two ways: by providing hands-on relief and by receiving donations as a means to offer financial grants. DRF relief grants can be considered only for property damage sustained to a primary residence, vehicle or personal property from a hurricane, flood, tornado, wildfire, earthquake, severe storm or other natural disaster. Damage declared by the applicant will be verified by the branch president or a designee.

The following are the eligibility criteria that members must understand and follow. To complete your grant file, please see No. 5 below, which lists all items that members must provide to the DRF.

- 1. Anyone seeking help *must* be an NALC member as defined by the *NALC Constitution*, Article 2, Section 1(a).
- 2. Members do not have to wait for emergency relief or insurance claims to apply.
- 3. Those temporarily displaced from their "uninhabitable" primary residence must submit a signed, personal narrative detailing the specific reasons for the anticipated duration of the displacement.
- 4. Applications for grants from the DRF must be received no later than 120 days from the date that the natural disaster occurred, unless applicants can provide sufficient reason(s) why they were unable to complete and submit their application prior to this deadline. Re-

quests for exceptions will be ruled on by the DRF directors on a case-by-case basis.

- 5. Items needed to have a complete DRF grant application:
 - Completed and legible signed grant application
 - Proof of primary resident ownership (property taxes/ home payment bill/insurance policy)
 - Proof of vehicle ownership (title/payment slip)
 - Clear photos of the damages to your home, vehicle or personal property
 - List of items lost or damaged
 - Other documentation (estimates, hotel receipts, etc.)
 - Branch president or designee verification of damage

Other matters that need to be considered: If members rent, they must provide statements from a landlord establishing property inhabitability, a copy of their new home application or a copy of the deposit receipt. If the member incurs expenses due to the displacement, he or she should provide hotel receipts or other documents to show these costs.

Members must document with photos the damage sustained by their primary residence, vehicle or personal property. If the member receives estimates or begins to repair the property or vehicle, he or she should provide those receipts.

Finally, the branch president or designee will need to verify the member's address/property; this involves a prepared statement documenting the member's damage from the disaster.

Remember, the application for DRF assistance is not an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency aid, or any other federal disaster assistance. Again, please make sure that the grant application and all pictures of the damage are clear, complete and legible. You can find the DRF grant application form at nalc. org/disaster.

If you have any questions, you can contact me at disasterrelieffoundation@nalc.org. Brothers and sisters, thank you; please stay safe, and God bless each of you and your families.

