

NALC Disaster Relief Foundation



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This year, much of the country has been cleaning up, from the derecho and flooding in the Midwest to Hurricane Ian in Florida and the Carolinas, and to Hurricane Fiona in Puerto Rico. In the past few months, the NALC Disaster Relief Foundation (DRF) has assisted at least 45 members in need, and as we can see, the weather is not slowing down. And every time that I hear my computer ding, I pray it is not another member

in need, because it is so painful and tragic.

But I work my hardest every day to make sure all members in need receive some form of assistance. What the DRF gives cannot solve everything, but I pray that it helps the member in need. We can't replace what was lost, but I want you to know we are always here for our members and their families.

With so many disasters affecting our members, contributions to the foundation are as important now 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 of money, rather than of goods, are usually the best way to help, because they are more flexible and can readily be redirected when needs change.

To be able to return to the field was heartwarming and eye-opening. Letting the members know we are here, physically making a difference. Being able to hug our members and shed some tears with them was the highlight of my travels.

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. With natural disasters increasing in frequency, the DRF is receiving grant applications daily. DRF relief grants can be considered for property damage sustained by a primary residence, vehicle or personal property from a hurricane, flood, tornado, wildfire, earthquake or severe storm. 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.

Members must fill out the grant application, which lists all items that members must provide to the DRF if they are an owner or a renter:

5. Items needed for a complete file:

Own: 1. Complete Grant Application 2. Proof of home-ownership or vehicle ownership (if damaged) 3. Clear-cut photos of damaged property (Home [show house address number], vehicle [if damaged], personal) 4. List of items damaged and estimate cost 5. Hotel receipts (if applicable), repair estimates (if available), insurance quotes (if available), Etc. 6. president or designee verification

Rent: 1. Complete Grant Application 2. Clear-cut photos of damaged property (vehicle [if damaged], personal) 3. List of items damaged and estimate cost 4. Renter Insurance quotes (if available) 5. Hotel receipts (if applicable) 6. Copy of deposit on new place (if applicable) 7. President or designee verification

As NALC President Fredric Rolando stated, "We hope that the foundation will become an invaluable lifeline for our sisters and brothers in need, in the true spirit of solidarity."

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Remember, the application for DRF assistance is not an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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 form at nalc.org under the Community Service tab.

Donations can be sent to NALC Disaster Relief Foundation, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001-2144; or by credit card at nalc.org/ndrfdonate. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization; contributions to the DRF may be tax-deductible. It is recommended that you consult your tax advisor. Donations go directly to individual carriers or to branches needing assistance—no administrative costs are deducted.

Brothers and sisters, thank you. Please stay safe and God bless each of you and your families.