



THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

HISTORY | *The Florida Hurricane Relief Fund was established by Governor Jeb Bush in response to the devastating Hurricanes that struck Florida’s communities in 2004. The hurricanes caused extensive damage to many Florida counties as their paths crisscrossed the state.*
 The Fund was created to help Floridians with recovery costs that were projected to exceed the coverage provided by insurance, government funding and immediate relief organizations. Nonprofit Volunteer Florida Foundation became the Fund’s manager, soliciting donations from the private sector and overseeing grants from the Fund. Allocations from the fund have been made in phases to allow qualifying counties and organizations to assess their changing needs as progress continues.

LONG TERM RECOVERY | *In response to the active and destructive hurricane seasons of 2004 and 2005 the Florida Hurricane Relief Fund seeks to help our neighbors on their road to recovery by assisting the creation of additional long term recovery committees.*

Definition | Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) are formal organizations made up of members of the communities they serve; representing business and financial leadership, local media, community and faith based groups, non-profit/civic organizations as well as city and county governments. The purpose is to coordinate and communicate the individual efforts of these groups by leveraging a limited supply of resources to maximize and sustain the recovery process.

Mission | The organization works to: (1) maximize all available resources of its member organizations, (2) enhance community confidence in the recovery process by establishing required policies and procedures for addressing the recovery needs of families, individuals and small business, and (3) avoid duplication of services by member organizations to the victims of the disaster.

Objectives | Key processes should include: (1) identifying remaining gaps in the recovery process within the communities they serve, which includes coordination with the agencies providing case management and relief/recovery services, (2) developing a relationship with policy makers on state and local levels, (3) developing policies regarding the scope of their ability to assist the recovery, such as income guidelines for those being assisted and the types of coordinated assistance they can provide, and (4) disseminating information to the public.

Initial Steps | Things to consider prior to formation may include: (1) identify LTRC leadership to include a full time Coordinator or Director, (2) assign a city/county/state government point person to stay current on relief/recovery efforts being conducted by government agencies, (3) identify resources available to recovery including state and county organizations such as the Area Workforce Board, Department of Health, Department of Housing, community and faith based organizations, non-profit housing corporations, etc., (4) identify and direct the movement of resources from relief/emergency assistance to recovery efforts, and (5) ensure these efforts focus on “long-term” recovery needs of the community rather than short term assistance needs.

The Florida Hurricane Relief Fund is managed by:

