



Small Staff, Big Challenges

NAVIGATING COMPLEX FEMA PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES





Introductions

Moderator / Panelist – Dan Curcio

- **2017** – Experience working at Lee County School and Florida State University.
- **2017** – Congressional Intern for the U.S. House of Representatives, Representative Francis Rooney.
- **2019** – Homeland Security Fellow at Philadelphia Officer of Emergency Management.
- **2019 to 2022** – Work at FDEM as Mitigation Planner/Planning Section (2019 – 2021) and then Deputy State Individual Assistance Officer (2021 – 2022).
- **2022** – Joins ACDC as a Consultant in Recovery Division.
- Has worked with many Florida clients from the public and private sector – all in the name of emergency management and disaster recovery.



DISASTER
CONSULTING



Introductions

Panelist – Doug Roberts

- Background working at various Florida agencies – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Agency for Persons with Disabilities; and, Division of Emergency Management.
- **2020 to 2024** – At FDEM, served as State Individual Assistance Officer then Deputy Bureau Chief of Disaster Recovery and State Disaster Recovery Coordinator.
 - *Oversaw the implementation of the first state-run emergency temporary housing programs following Hurricanes Ian and Idalia, providing temporary housing to over 1,300 families.*
- **2024** – Joins ACDC as Deputy Director of Recovery.
- At ACDC, key project is Elevate Florida! Statewide Residential Mitigation Grant Program.



DISASTER
CONSULTING



Introductions

Panelist – Ralph Smith

- Born and raised in Gilchrist County, FL.
- *Dedicated his career to serving the citizens of North Central Florida through public safety, emergency response, and leadership.*
- **2006** – Dispatcher for Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office (GCSO).
- **2011** – Started volunteering with the Trenton Fire Station.
- **2012** – Promoted to Lieutenant (GCSO)
- **2014** – Promoted to Assistant Chief (GCSO) while also serving as Dispatch Assistant Supervisor.
- **2015** – Appointed Emergency Management Director.



Panel Discussion

Audience Question



Documentation is often one of the biggest challenges for applicants with staffing issues.

What types of documentation requirements have been the most challenging to manage?

Are there any strategies or lessons learned that have helped improve documentation within your organization?



Question One

How large is your staff and how does staffing capacity affect your ability to navigate the PA process?

Question Two



Small counties often have limited administrative staff. How does that impact your ability to track costs, documentation, and compliance for FEMA reimbursement?



Question Three

As a consultant who works with Florida clients as well as coming from the State, what challenges do you see in the PA process?

Question Four



How do you effectively work with clients who may have other concerns on their radars?

Question Five



What are the biggest immediate challenges you face while trying to manage response operations and FEMA documentation at the same time?

Question Six



How can a consulting firms address and prepare for human services needs for small counties and municipalities?

What steps do you take to fill the gaps to meet human services needs?

Question Seven



How do you balance responding to FEMA requests while managing other organizational priorities?



Question Eight

What advice would you give municipalities who often receive funding from multiple sources including insurance or other federal programs.

How do you coordinate these funding streams to avoid duplication of benefits?

What common duplication of benefits issues have you encountered and are there any lessons learned you could share to track overlapping funding sources?

Question Nine



How can small agencies manage PA documentation and timelines when the same staff member is responsible for multiple roles?

Question Ten



Looking back on recent disasters, what is the biggest lesson learned that you would like to share as we proceed into hurricane season?

What is one thing you'd recommend an applicant start doing today?

Question Eleven



How are you handling FEMA's push to move to a more state and locally-focused disaster recovery framework?

Audience Q&A

Contact Information

Dan Curcio

SENIOR CONSULTANT I, RECOVERY



dcurcio@acdisaster.com

Doug Roberts

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, RECOVERY



droberts@acdisaster.com

Ralph Smith

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR



rsmith@gcfr.org