CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING
Living with Climate Change: Integrating Equity into Emergency Management

Materials will be available at:
www.eesi.org/071422climatechange
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Thursday, July 14, 2022
About EESI

Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers
A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies.

Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program
In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs.

Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making.

Sustainable Solutions
Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.
Policymaker Education

**Briefings and Webcasts**
Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

**Climate Change Solutions**
Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

**Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs**
Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

**Social Media (@EESIOnline)**
Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube
Upcoming Briefings & Series

Living with Climate Change
- Polar Vortex – April 13
- Sea Level Rise – May 18
- Wildfires – June 13
- Extreme Heat – June 24
- Integrating Equity into Emergency Management – July 14

Scaling Up Innovation to Drive Down Emissions
- Green Hydrogen – April 27
- Direct Air Capture – May 25
- Electric Vehicle Charging – June 02
- Offshore Wind Energy – June 29
- Climate Innovation – July 12
LIVING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE:
INTEGRATING EQUITY INTO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE (EESI) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING
JULY 14, 2022

CHAUNCIA WILLIS, CEO – I-DIEM
CHIEF SHIRELL PARFAIT-DARDAR, CHIEF – GRAND CAILLOU/DULAC BAND OF BILoxi-CHITIMACHA-CHOCTAW
CHAUNCIA WILLIS, CEO
INSTITUTE FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
I-DIEM PURPOSE, MISSION, & VISION

**Purpose**

I-DIEM is a global non-profit established to facilitate change by integrating equity into all aspects of emergency management. Our focus is on humanity and our vision supports the empowerment of marginalized communities within all phases of the disaster management cycle.

**Mission**

Our mission is to support development and implementation of innovative community-based mitigation and adaptation projects to enhance resilience in diverse, vulnerable, and underserved communities.

**Vision**

The vision of I-DIEM is to enhance global resilience and improve emergency management outcomes by leveraging diversity, equity, and inclusion.
OUR WORK: COMMUNITY IMPACT AND INITIATIVES

Advocacy
- 4 Congressional Testimonies
- 8 Keynote Presentations
- Equitable Considerations for FEMA Polices and Programs
- BRIC Recommendations
- National Disaster Safety Board
- Ensuring Equity in Disaster Resilience, Response, and Recovery Act
- FEMA Equity Act
- Virtual Equity Roundtable Series (Community Conversations)

Training
- FEMA (HQ & Regions III, IV, X, and 10)
- Salvation Army
- National League of Cities
- Cities of Sarasota, FL & Alton, TX
- Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority
- Dane County, WI Emergency Management Agency
- Town of Waxhaw, NC

Programs
- Equity Response Teams
- HERricane Program
- Julius Becton Jr. Scholarship Program
- Fellowship & Internship Program
- BUILD Program
- Jobs Board
PROBLEMATIC INEQUITIES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Community Perspectives

• Exclusionary Practices
• Lack of awareness for mitigation funding
• Lack of access to mitigation funding
• Lack of Representation or Recognition
• Complex administrative, bureaucratic processes
• Need for knowledge of grant-writing processes and strategies
• Need for capacity to support effective funding acquisition
• Lack of support from federal, state, and/or local government
PROBLEMATIC INEQUITIES WITHIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Perspectives

- Disasters build wealth for the wealthy
- Funding streams are inherently inequitable and not community-focuses (i.e., federal, state, and local funding)
- Field is predominantly white, and predominantly male
- Policies and programs are geared toward response and recovery
- Policies, such as redlining, create vulnerability for the most vulnerable
- Vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations receive less mitigation, preparedness, and recovery funding
I-DIEM’s Equity Response Teams (ERT) are deployable, interdisciplinary teams of certified emergency managers, cultural competency experts, and community engagement professionals dedicated to ensuring equity in all phases of the disaster cycle for vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations post-disaster.

- Community-Empowered, Community-Driven Emergency Management Approaches
- Connecting Resources
- Enhancing Community Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- Amplifying Voices
• Training & Workshops
• Equity Response Team Expansion & Deployment
• Community-Based Mitigation Programs
• Community Empowerment and Engagement
• Innovative Support for Research, Advocacy, and Policy
• Community Advocacy Platforms and Inclusive Decision-Making
THANK YOU!

WWW.I-DIEM.ORG
CHIEF SHIRELL PARFAIT-DARDAR

CHIEF – GRAND CAILLOU/DULAC BAND OF BILOXI-CHITIMACHA-CHOCTAW
COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

- **Challenges**
  - Climate Impacts Exacerbated, Especially in Louisiana
  - Lack of Communication with Local Authorities
  - Lack of Government Assistance
  - Discrimination Due to Lack of Federal Recognition Despite Treatises
  - Complexities with State Recognition of Tribes
    - Recent Remarks by Senator Tarver
  - Governmental Barriers to Available Assistance
COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

Needs / Solutions

• Improved Process for State and Federal Recognition
• Understanding that Tribes are also U.S. Citizens
• Government Accountability (Local, State, and Federal) – Understanding that the despite Tribal status, the Government’s Responsibility is to its Citizens
• Stronger Focus on Community
  • Grand Caillou/Dulac Tribe Assisted 56 Families with the Help of Non-Profit, Faith-Based Organizations, and Academia
• Improved Access and Awareness of Mitigation, Preparedness, and Recovery Funding Opportunities
• Improved Funding Flow (Direct-to-Community Partners and/or Non-Profit versus Federal-to-State-to-Local)
What did you think of the briefing?

Please take 2 minutes to let us know at:
www.eesi.org/survey

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