



**EESI**

Environmental and  
Energy Study Institute

**Materials will be available at:**  
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**CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**  
**Living with Climate Change:**  
**Integrating Equity into**  
**Emergency Management**

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.*

# Polycymaker 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



**I-DIEM**  
Institute for Diversity and Inclusion  
in Emergency Management

# 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-focused (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

# DOING DISASTERS DIFFERENTLY: EQUITY RESPONSE TEAMS



- 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



# DOING DISASTERS DIFFERENTLY: FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES



- 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](http://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:**  
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