

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1245

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2025”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Information sharing for federal agencies.

- Sec. 3. Universal application for individual assistance.
- Sec. 4. Repair and rebuilding.
- Sec. 5. Direct assistance.
- Sec. 6. State-managed housing pilot authority.
- Sec. 7. Management costs.
- Sec. 8. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
- Sec. 9. Individual assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 10. FEMA reports.
- Sec. 11. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.
- Sec. 12. Improved rental assistance.
- Sec. 13. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.
- Sec. 14. Applicability.
- Sec. 15. GAO report to Congress on challenges under public assistance alternative procedures.

1           (c) DEFINITIONS.—Except as otherwise provided, the  
 2 terms used in this Act have the meanings given such terms  
 3 in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
 4 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

5 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

6           (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED DISASTER APPLI-  
 7 CATION SYSTEM.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
 9 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall estab-  
 10 lish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic  
 11 information sharing system, to be known as the  
 12 “unified disaster application system”, to—

13                   (A) facilitate the administration of the uni-  
 14 versal application for direct Federal disaster as-  
 15 sistance established under section 3;

16                   (B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-  
 17 sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, and in ac-  
 18 cordance with applicable laws, regulations, and

1 the privacy and data protections provided under  
2 this section; and

3 (C) support the detection, prevention, and  
4 investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimi-  
5 nation in the administration of disaster assist-  
6 ance programs.

7 (2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-  
8 tablishing and maintaining the unified disaster ap-  
9 plication system under this subsection, the Adminis-  
10 trator may collect and maintain disaster assistance  
11 information received from a disaster assistance  
12 agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for  
13 a disaster assistance program and share such infor-  
14 mation with any other disaster assistance agency or  
15 block grant recipient using such system.

16 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall  
17 ensure that the unified disaster application system  
18 established and maintained under this subsection—

19 (A) allows an applicant to receive status  
20 updates on an application for disaster assist-  
21 ance programs submitted through such system;

22 (B) allows for applicants to update disaster  
23 assistance information throughout the recovery  
24 journeys of such applicants in accordance with  
25 established application timeframes;

1 (C) allows for the distribution to applicants  
2 of information about additional recovery re-  
3 sources that may be available in a disaster  
4 stricken area;

5 (D) provides an applicant with information  
6 and documentation relating to an application  
7 for a disaster assistance program submitted by  
8 such applicant; and

9 (E) contains any other capabilities deter-  
10 mined necessary by the head of a disaster as-  
11 sistance agency.

12 (b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-  
13 tate the collection of disaster assistance information into  
14 the unified disaster application system established under  
15 subsection (a) only after the following requirements have  
16 been met:

17 (1) The Administrator certifies that the unified  
18 disaster application system substantially complies  
19 with the data security standards and best practices  
20 established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35  
21 of title 44, United States Code, and any other appli-  
22 cable Federal information security policy.

23 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security pub-  
24 lishes a privacy impact assessment for the unified  
25 disaster application system, in accordance with sec-

1 tion 208(b)(1)(B) of the E-Government Act of 2002  
2 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note).

3 (3) The Administrator, after consulting with  
4 disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard  
5 rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies,  
6 block grant recipients, and personnel granted access  
7 to disaster assistance information to protect such in-  
8 formation from improper disclosure.

9 (c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL  
10 RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-  
12 thorize the additional collection, maintenance, shar-  
13 ing, and use of disaster assistance information by  
14 publishing a notice on the unified disaster applica-  
15 tion system established under subsection (a) that in-  
16 cludes a detailed description of—

17 (A) the specific amendments to the collec-  
18 tion, maintenance, and sharing of disaster as-  
19 sistance information authorized;

20 (B) why each such amendment to how dis-  
21 aster assistance information is collected, main-  
22 tained, or shared is necessary to carry out the  
23 purposes of a disaster assistance program and  
24 consistent with the fair information practice  
25 principles; and

1 (C) the disaster assistance agencies and  
2 block grant recipients that will be granted ac-  
3 cess to the additional information to carry out  
4 the purposes of any disaster assistance pro-  
5 gram.

6 (2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIRE-  
7 MENTS.—The publication of a notice under para-  
8 graph (1) of a revision to the unified disaster appli-  
9 cation system of records prior to any new collection,  
10 or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to  
11 carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance pro-  
12 gram with regard to a disaster declared by the  
13 President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T.  
14 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to sat-  
16 isfy the notice and publication requirements of sec-  
17 tion 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for  
18 the entire period of performance for any assistance  
19 provided under a disaster assistance program.

20 (3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-  
21 QUIREMENTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of  
23 a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-  
24 tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-  
25 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42

1 U.S.C. 5170; 5191) by the President, the Ad-  
2 ministrator may waive the requirements of sub-  
3 chapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United  
4 States Code, with respect to voluntary collection  
5 of information for the entire period of perform-  
6 ance for any assistance provided under a dis-  
7 aster assistance program.

8 (B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the  
9 waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the  
10 Administrator shall—

11 (i) promptly post on a website of the  
12 Federal Emergency Management Agency a  
13 brief justification for such waiver, the an-  
14 ticipated period of time such waiver will be  
15 in effect, and the disaster assistance offices  
16 within the Federal Emergency Manage-  
17 ment Agency to which such waiver shall  
18 apply; and

19 (ii) update the information relating to  
20 such waiver, as applicable.

21 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION  
22 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the  
25 Comptroller General of the United States shall

1 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-  
2 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver  
3 of the information collection requirements de-  
4 scribed in paragraph (3).

5 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required  
6 under subparagraph (A) shall include an assess-  
7 ment of the extent to which a waiver described  
8 in paragraph (3) would—

9 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-  
10 dividuals, small businesses, State, local and  
11 tribal governments, and other persons;

12 (ii) affect the consistent application of  
13 Federal laws relating to—

14 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

15 (II) security of information; and

16 (III) access to information; and

17 (iii) encourage or deter a State or  
18 other entity from participating in the vol-  
19 untary collection of information for the du-  
20 ration of a major disaster or emergency.

21 (d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-  
23 mit a Federal agency other than a disaster assist-  
24 ance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through  
25 (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the unified disaster

1 application system established under subsection (a)  
2 for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assist-  
3 ance if such agency enters into an agreement con-  
4 taining the terms described in paragraph (2).

5 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement en-  
6 tered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-  
7 lowing terms:

8 (A) The Federal agency shall—

9 (i) collect, share, maintain, and use  
10 disaster assistance information in compli-  
11 ance with this section and any policies of  
12 the Federal Emergency Management  
13 Agency and any information protection and  
14 use policies of such Federal agency; and

15 (ii) train any personnel granted access  
16 to disaster assistance information on the  
17 rules of behavior established by the Admin-  
18 istrator under subsection (b)(3).

19 (B) In the event of any unauthorized dis-  
20 closure of disaster assistance information, the  
21 Federal agency shall—

22 (i) notify the Administrator within 24  
23 hours of discovering any such unauthorized  
24 disclosure;

1 (ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-  
2 trator in the investigation and remediation  
3 of any such disclosure;

4 (iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution  
5 of a person responsible for such disclosure;  
6 and

7 (iv) assume the responsibility for any  
8 compensation, civil liability, or other reme-  
9 diation measures, whether awarded by a  
10 judgment of a court or agreed as a com-  
11 promise of any potential claims by or on  
12 behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-  
13 ing credit monitoring and remediation  
14 services, for an improper disclosure that  
15 is—

16 (I) caused, directly or indirectly,  
17 by the acts or omissions of officers,  
18 employees, and contractors of the  
19 agency; or

20 (II) from any electronic system  
21 of records that is created or main-  
22 tained by the agency pursuant to sec-  
23 tion 552a(e) of title 5, United States  
24 Code.

1           (3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—

2           The Administrator shall publish an agency agree-  
3           ment entered into under this subsection on the same  
4           website as the unified disaster application system es-  
5           tablished under subsection (a).

6           (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use  
7           of disaster assistance information that is subject to the  
8           requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States  
9           Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant re-  
10          cipients—

11           (1) shall not be—

12           (A) construed as a matching program for  
13           purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

14           (B) subject to the remaining computer  
15           matching provisions of section 552a of such  
16           title; and

17           (2) shall be in addition to any other law pro-  
18           viding for the sharing or use of such information.

19          (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20           (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”  
21           means—

22           (A) a person who applies for disaster as-  
23           sistance from a disaster assistance program;  
24           and

1 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-  
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-  
3 aster assistance.

4 (2) BLOCK GRANT RECIPIENT.—The term  
5 “block grant recipient” means a State, local govern-  
6 ment, or Indian Tribe that receives assistance  
7 through the disaster assistance program described in  
8 paragraph (5)(B)(i).

9 (3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE AGENCY.—The term  
10 “disaster assistance agency” means—

11 (A) the Federal Emergency Management  
12 Agency;

13 (B) the Department of Housing and  
14 Urban Development;

15 (C) the Small Business Administration;

16 (D) the Department of Agriculture; and

17 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-  
18 ministrator permits to use the unified disaster  
19 application system under subsection (d).

20 (4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The  
21 term “disaster assistance information” includes any  
22 personal, demographic, biographical, geographical,  
23 financial information, or other information that a  
24 disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is  
25 authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to proc-

1       ess an application for disaster assistance or other-  
2       wise carry out a disaster assistance program.

3           (5) DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The  
4       term “disaster assistance program” means—

5           (A) any program that provides assistance  
6       to individuals and households under title IV or  
7       title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
8       and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170  
9       et seq.); or

10          (B) any other assistance program carried  
11       out by a disaster assistance agency that pro-  
12       vides assistance to an individual, household, or  
13       organization related to a major disaster or  
14       emergency declared under sections 401 or 501  
15       of such Act, including—

16           (i) assistance for activities related to  
17       disaster relief, long-term recovery, restora-  
18       tion of infrastructure and housing, eco-  
19       nomic revitalization, and mitigation that  
20       are authorized under title I of the Housing  
21       and Community Development Act of 1974  
22       (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

23           (ii) any loan that is authorized under  
24       section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15  
25       U.S.C. 636(b)); and

1 (iii) the distribution of food benefit al-  
2 lotments as authorized under section 412  
3 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
4 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp  
6 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

7 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIST-**  
8 **ANCE.**

9 (a) **UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.**—The Administrator  
10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall de-  
11 velop and establish a universal application for direct Fed-  
12 eral disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted  
13 by emergencies or disasters.

14 (b) **CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.**—

15 (1) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this sec-  
16 tion, the Administrator shall consult with the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 (A) The Director of the Office of Manage-  
19 ment and Budget.

20 (B) The Administrator of the Small Busi-  
21 ness Administration.

22 (C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban  
23 Development.

24 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

1           (2) SUPPORT.—The entities described in para-  
2           graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Ad-  
3           ministrators.

4           (c) SURVEY.—The application established under sub-  
5           section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the  
6           demographic data of an applicant.

7           (d) GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND  
8           DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-  
9           GRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
10          ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United  
11          States shall—

12           (1) conduct an assessment of improper and po-  
13           tentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for  
14           individuals made to survivors of major disasters de-  
15           clared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity  
16           theft; and

17           (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation  
18           and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives  
19           and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-  
20           ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-  
21           scribes—

22           (A) the prevalence of improper and poten-  
23           tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for  
24           individuals made to registrants who used invalid

1 information to apply for disaster assistance, in-  
2 cluding through identity theft;

3 (B) the number of disaster survivors whose  
4 claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-  
5 viduals were denied due to another individual  
6 filing a fraudulent application using their per-  
7 sonal identifying information;

8 (C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-  
9 tion protocols in place on the Federal Emer-  
10 gency Management Agency’s online application  
11 for Federal disaster assistance for individuals;  
12 and

13 (D) recommendations for improving the  
14 identity verification protocols in place for Fed-  
15 eral disaster assistance for individuals.

16 **SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert  
18 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
19 (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

20 (1) by striking “rendered uninhabitable” and  
21 inserting “damaged by a major disaster”; and

22 (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of  
23 damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting  
24 “damaged by a major disaster”.

1 (b) HAZARD MITIGATION.—Section 408 of the Rob-  
2 ert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the  
5 following:

6 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may  
8 provide financial assistance to individuals and  
9 households whose primary residence, utilities, or  
10 residential infrastructure are damaged by a  
11 major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-  
12 tion measures that reduce threats to life and  
13 property, or future damage to such residence,  
14 utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

15 “(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-  
16 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided  
17 under this paragraph shall not be required to  
18 show that the assistance can be met through  
19 other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and  
20 (2) in subsection (h)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-  
22 cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-  
23 section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection  
24 (c)(1)(A)(i)”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “para-  
2 graphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs  
3 (1), (2), and (3)”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—The maximum fi-  
6 nancial assistance any individual or household may  
7 receive under subsection (c)(5) shall be equivalent to  
8 the amount set forth in paragraph (1) with respect  
9 to a single major disaster.”.

10 **SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.  
12 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking para-  
14 graph (2) and inserting the following:

15 “(2) REPAIRS.—

16 “(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-  
17 PAIRS.—The President may provide financial  
18 assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-  
19 vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-  
20 structure (such as a private access route) dam-  
21 aged by a major disaster, or with respect to in-  
22 dividuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible  
23 by a major disaster.

24 “(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The President  
2           may provide direct assistance to individuals  
3           and households who are unable to make  
4           use of financial assistance under subpara-  
5           graph (A) and when there is a lack of  
6           available resources, for—

7                   “(I) the repair of owner-occupied  
8                   private residences, utilities, and resi-  
9                   dential infrastructure (such as a pri-  
10                  vate access route) damaged by a  
11                  major disaster, or with respect to indi-  
12                  viduals with disabilities, rendered in-  
13                  accessible by a disaster; and

14                   “(II) eligible hazard mitigation  
15                   measures that reduce the likelihood  
16                   and future damage to such residences,  
17                   utilities, and infrastructure.

18           “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-  
19           sistance under this subparagraph shall not  
20           be eligible for assistance under paragraph  
21           (1), unless otherwise determined by the  
22           Administrator.

23           “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-  
24           ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided  
25           under this paragraph shall not be required to

1 show that the assistance can be met through  
2 other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

3 (b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-AD-  
4 MINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSIST-  
5 ANCE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
6 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f))  
7 is amended—

8 (1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4),  
9 and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “para-  
10 graphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and  
11 subsection (e)”;

12 (2) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking “subsection  
13 (c)(1)(B), (c)(4), or (e)” and inserting “paragraph  
14 (1)(B), (2)(B), or (4) of subsection (c) or subsection  
15 (e)”.

16 **SEC. 6. STATE-MANAGED HOUSING PILOT AUTHORITY.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408 of the Robert T.  
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
19 (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (f)(3)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) by striking “A State” and insert-  
23 ing the following:

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State”; and

1 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(ii) TRANSPARENCY.—The President  
4 shall make public the criteria used to  
5 evaluate applications under clause (i) and  
6 determine if a State or Indian tribal gov-  
7 ernment meets the criteria described in  
8 subparagraph (B) to administer grants de-  
9 scribed in paragraph (1)(A).”;

10 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

11 (i) in subclause (I) by striking “;  
12 and” and inserting a semicolon;

13 (ii) in subclause (II) by striking the  
14 period at the end and inserting a semi-  
15 colon; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18 “(III) outline the approach of the  
19 State to help disaster survivors create  
20 a permanent housing plan; and

21 “(IV) outline the approach of the  
22 State to provide individual disaster  
23 survivors some choice of communities  
24 and properties, as practicable.”;

25 (C) by striking subparagraph (F);

1 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),  
2 (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),  
3 (H), and (I), respectively; and

4 (E) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-  
5 nated—

6 (i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later  
7 than 2 years after the date of enactment  
8 of this paragraph, the” and inserting  
9 “The”; and

10 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking “2  
11 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

12 (2) in subsection (g)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “para-  
14 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and  
15 (3)”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of as-  
18 sistance provided under subsections (c)(1)(B),  
19 (c)(2)(B), and (c)(4), the Federal share shall be not  
20 less than 75 percent.”.

21 (b) GAO ASSESSMENT.—Upon the expiration of the  
22 authority to carry out section 408(f) of the Robert T.  
23 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
24 (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) as a pilot program, the Comptroller  
25 General of the United States shall issue a report on the

1 effectiveness, successes, and challenges of any pilot pro-  
2 gram carried out pursuant to such section and make rec-  
3 ommendations on how to improve the provision of assist-  
4 ance under such section.

5 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert  
7 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act  
8 (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following:

10 “(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee  
11 under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not  
12 more than 12 percent of the total award  
13 amount under each such section.

14 “(D) CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE,  
15 TRAINING, AND CASE MANAGEMENT SERV-  
16 ICES.—A grantee and subgrantee, cumulatively,  
17 may be reimbursed not more than 15 percent of  
18 the total amount of the grant award under ei-  
19 ther section 416 or 426.”.

20 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of  
21 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-  
22 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174), as amended by section 5(b)  
23 of this Act, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “(A) GRANT TO STATE.—” and  
2 all that follows through “subsection (g),” and insert-  
3 ing “Subject to subsection (g),”; and

4 (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

5 **SEC. 8. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER**  
6 **ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) USE OF SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES.—Sec-  
8 tion 201(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
9 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131(a)) is amend-  
10 ed—

11 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at  
12 the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

15 (b) GRANTS FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-  
16 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
17 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)  
18 is amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-  
20 ANCE.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the  
22 Federal Emergency Management Agency may pro-  
23 vide funding to a State agency established under  
24 subsection (c) to establish, update, or operate a  
25 website to provide information relating to post-dis-

1        aster recovery funding and resources to a community  
2        or an individual impacted by a major disaster or  
3        emergency.

4            “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under  
5        this subsection shall be—

6                    “(A) managed by the State agency; and

7                    “(B) suitable for the residents of the State  
8        of the State agency.

9            “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may pro-  
10        vide funding to a State agency under this subsection  
11        to establish a website that contains only 1 or more  
12        of the following:

13                    “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local  
14        sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-  
15        sistance that may be available to a community  
16        after a major disaster or emergency.

17                    “(B) A list of Federal, State, and local  
18        sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-  
19        sistance that may be available to an individual  
20        impacted by a major disaster or emergency.

21                    “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-  
22        plains the costs and benefits of alternatives  
23        available to a community to mitigate the im-  
24        pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-

1           pare for sequential hazards such as flooding  
2           after a wildfire.

3           “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-  
4           ceives funding under this subsection shall cooperate  
5           with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of  
6           Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
7           Development, the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
8           ness Administration, and the Administrator of the  
9           Federal Emergency Management Agency in devel-  
10          oping a website under this subsection.

11          “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives  
12          funding to establish a website under this subsection  
13          shall update the website not less than once every 6  
14          months.”.

15 **SEC. 9. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

16          Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
17          Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) is  
18          amended by adding at the end the following:

19 **“SEC. 431. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

20          “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after a  
21          declaration by the President that a major disaster exists  
22          under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal  
23          Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a  
24          website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying  
25          the following information with respect to such disaster:

1           “(1) The number of applications for assistance  
2           under section 408, including a description of the  
3           number of applications for assistance related to  
4           housing under such section and the number of appli-  
5           cations for assistance to address other needs under  
6           section 408(e).

7           “(2) The number of applications for such as-  
8           sistance that are approved.

9           “(3) The number of applications for such as-  
10          sistance that are denied.

11          “(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial  
12          of such applications, including the number of appli-  
13          cations for each reason for denial.

14          “(5) If available, the dollar amount of assist-  
15          ance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants  
16          who are—

17                 “(A) property owners with a household an-  
18                 nual income—

19                         “(i) above the national median house-  
20                         hold income; and

21                         “(ii) below the national median house-  
22                         hold income; and

23                 “(B) renters with a household annual in-  
24                 come—

1                   “(i) above the national median house-  
2                   hold income; and

3                   “(ii) below the national median house-  
4                   hold income.

5                   “(6) The estimated percentage of residential  
6                   property that was destroyed as a result of the major  
7                   disaster, if available.

8                   “(7) Any other information that the Adminis-  
9                   trator determines to be relevant.

10                  “(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—  
11                  The Administrator shall ensure that none of the informa-  
12                  tion published under subsection (a) contains the personally  
13                  identifiable information of an applicant.”.

14                  **SEC. 10. FEMA REPORTS.**

15                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
16                  date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the  
17                  Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to  
18                  the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of  
19                  the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
20                  Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate  
21                  a report with respect to fiscal year 2016 through the most  
22                  recent fiscal year ending before the date of enactment of  
23                  this Act, and an annual report for any fiscal year begin-  
24                  ning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, describ-  
25                  ing—

1           (1) the average amount of individual assistance  
2           and individual and household assistance provided  
3           under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster  
4           Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
5           5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual  
6           assistance and individual and household assistance  
7           provided under such section for—

8                   (A) all individuals;

9                   (B) households;

10                  (C) individuals and households with a re-  
11                  ported annual income under 75 percent of the  
12                  national median household income;

13                  (D) individuals with a reported annual in-  
14                  come over 125 percent of the national median  
15                  household income; and

16                  (E) individuals with a reported annual in-  
17                  come between 75 percent and 125 percent of  
18                  the national median household income; and

19           (2) an explanation for any factors causing an  
20           increase in the rate of denial of the assistance de-  
21           scribed in paragraph (1), if applicable.

22           (b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—In the report sub-  
23           mitted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall de-  
24           scribe the number of homeowners and the number of rent-  
25           ers for each category of individuals and households de-

1 scribed in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of subsection  
2 (a)(1).

3 **SEC. 11. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**  
4 **SONNEL.**

5 Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
6 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b) is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-  
9 SONNEL.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for  
11 which the President has authorized emergency pro-  
12 tective measures for an area within the jurisdiction  
13 of a State, tribal, or local government, the Adminis-  
14 trator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local gov-  
15 ernment for costs relating to sheltering emergency  
16 response personnel, including individuals that are a  
17 part of the same predisaster household as such per-  
18 sonnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-con-  
19 gregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief  
20 executive of the tribal or local government deter-  
21 mines that the damage or disruption to such area is  
22 of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of  
23 emergency protective measures within such area.

24 “(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
2           may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local gov-  
3           ernment for the costs of sheltering emergency  
4           response personnel under paragraph (1) for  
5           such a period of time as the Administrator de-  
6           termines reasonable based in the individual  
7           characteristics of and impacts to the affected  
8           area, including the extent of damage, the avail-  
9           ability of alternative housing options, the avail-  
10          ability of utilities, and disruptions to transpor-  
11          tation infrastructure.

12           “(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-  
13          MENT.—The period of reimbursement under  
14          subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month  
15          period beginning on the date on which the inci-  
16          dent period ends.

17           “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
18          ‘emergency response personnel’ means—

19           “(A) employees or contracted employees  
20          providing law enforcement, fire suppression,  
21          rescue, emergency medical, emergency manage-  
22          ment, or emergency communications services;  
23          and

24           “(B) elected officials, except members of  
25          Congress, responsible for the overseeing or di-

1           recting emergency response operations or recov-  
2           ery activities.”.

3 **SEC. 12. IMPROVED RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

4           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 408(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the  
5 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-  
6 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended by in-  
7 serting “, including local post-disaster rent increases,”  
8 after “accommodation provided”.

9           (b) **STUDY.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of  
10 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal  
11 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study to  
12 examine the unique challenges of renters when seeking  
13 Federal disaster assistance and any disparities of assist-  
14 ance provided to homeowners and renters pursuant to sec-  
15 tion 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and  
16 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) and develop  
17 a plan that addresses any identified challenges and dis-  
18 parities, including any recommendations for legislative ac-  
19 tion.

20           (c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Upon completion of the  
21 activities carried out under subsection (b), the Adminis-  
22 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation  
23 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and  
24 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental

1 Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and  
2 recommendations required under subsection (b).

3 (d) CONSULTATION.—In completing the study and  
4 report required under subsections (b) and (c), the Admin-  
5 istrator shall consult with appropriate Federal entities and  
6 stakeholders involved in disaster housing.

7 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESS-**  
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
10 United States shall conduct a study on the practices, in-  
11 cluding the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal  
12 Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting  
13 preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of pro-  
14 viding assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Staf-  
15 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42.  
16 U.S.C. 5174).

17 (b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-  
18 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 (1) A comparison of the process and procedures  
21 used by the Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
22 cy to complete preliminary damage assessments to  
23 the process and procedures used by private insur-  
24 ance companies following a major disaster.

1           (2) A review of training provided to individuals  
2           conducting preliminary damage assessments.

3           (3) A comparison of damage estimates for  
4           homes owned by individuals above the national me-  
5           dian income to homes owned by individuals at or  
6           below the national median income.

7 **SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.**

8           The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 8, and  
9 11 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after  
10 the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 15. GAO REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CHALLENGES**  
12                           **UNDER PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ALTERNATIVE**  
13                           **PROCEDURES.**

14           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the  
15 United States shall conduct a study on the challenges to  
16 States and Territories of the United States in obtaining  
17 assistance under section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford  
18 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
19 5189f).

20           (b) **CONTENTS.**—In conducting the study described  
21 in subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall study the  
22 challenges for assistance described in subsection (a) faced  
23 by the following:

1           (1) Rural areas, as such term is defined in sec-  
2           tion 423 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
3           and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189a).

4           (2) Small impoverished communities, as such  
5           term is defined in section 203 of such Act.

6           (3) Other communities, areas, or individuals  
7           that the Comptroller General determines pertinent.

8           (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
9           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
10          General shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
11          results of the study required under subsection (a).

○