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COMMISSION SEEKS IMPROVEMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

The National Commission on Children and Disasters submitted comments on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) draft National Disaster Recovery Framework. To view a copy of the Commission's comments on this document [click here](#).

Disasters have a long-term impact on any community. Often it takes years for a community to recover from a disaster and even more importantly, for children, these traumatic experiences have an even more profound and detrimental effect on their mental, social, physical and developmental needs.

The Commission believes the National Disaster Recovery Framework must focus more intently on rebuilding the lives of children and families, as opposed to rebuilding roads and bridges. To view a copy of FEMA's Draft National Disaster Recovery Framework [click here](#).

Background:

After the catastrophic events of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, and more recently floods and tornadoes in the Midwest, the federal government recognized the importance of examining lessons learned from these disasters' recovery efforts and the need to find areas for improvement in collaboration between federal, state and local governments.

On September 29, 2009, President Obama announced an effort to examine lessons learned during previous catastrophic disaster recovery efforts, areas for improved collaboration between federal agencies and between the federal government and state and local governments and stakeholders. At the President's request, the Secretaries of Homeland Security and Housing and Urban Development are co-chairing a Long-Term Disaster Recovery Working Group composed of the Secretaries and Administrators of more than 20 departments, agencies and offices. This high-level, strategic initiative will provide operational guidance for recovery organizations as well as make suggestions for future improvement.

The Working Group held public hearings around the country to gather public input and engaged recovery stakeholder groups, including the National Commission on Children and Disasters, to develop a strategy that effectively delivers recovery assistance. To view all public comments, please visit www.regulations.gov and search in Docket FEMA-2010-0004. A final National Disaster Recovery Framework will be submitted to President Obama on June 1, 2010.

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