

Severe Weather & Derecho Recovery Fund



Midterm Impact Report

November 2024

In April and May 2024, floods, straight-line winds, and tornadoes (“the disaster”) affected the Houston region, causing nearly one million people to be displaced from their homes or left without electric power for days to weeks. On May 18, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden approved a Major Disaster Declaration for these combined events impacting multiple counties, including Harris, Montgomery, and Waller counties, making federal assistance available to support local recovery efforts.

Recognizing the hardships created by the disaster, Greater Houston Community Foundation (“Foundation”) and United Way of Greater Houston (“United Way”) established the Severe Weather and Derecho Recovery Fund (“the Fund”) through a standing philanthropic partnership called the [Greater Houston Disaster Alliance](#) (“Disaster Alliance”). The Fund was also supported by City of Houston Mayor John Whitmire and Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. The work of the Greater Houston Disaster Alliance would not be possible without the support of its lead sponsors: Enbridge and Phillips 66.

In total, the Fund raised nearly \$3.1 million, thanks to the generosity of so many individuals, corporations, and foundations.

As of September 27, the [Disaster Recovery Council](#) had approved three rounds of funding to 20 unique nonprofit organizations providing critical financial assistance, resource navigation, and home repair services to vulnerable households impacted by the disaster throughout the City of Houston and Harris, Montgomery, and Waller counties. Round 1 funds were quickly disbursed within 20 days of the derecho disaster and 14 days of the Fund’s launch.

The table summarizes grants made by Round and program; a detailed list of grantees can be found on the Disaster Alliance’s website, www.disasteralliance.org/derecho.

GRANT AMOUNTS DISBURSED BY SERVICE AND ROUND				
Service Area	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Total
Emergency Financial Assistance	\$1,310,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,300,000
Home Repair	\$0	\$1,400,000	\$67,200	\$1,467,200
System Coordination	\$0	\$116,000	\$5,500	\$121,500
Total	\$1,310,000	\$1,516,000	\$72,700	\$2,898,700

Note: Total funds disbursed are all funds available after credit card and other fees are deducted.

Impact to Date

The following information includes data on the number of individuals and households served by the Derecho Recovery Fund by type of service and demographic characteristics. Data were provided by grantee organizations that collected information from clients to the best of their ability. A final fund report will be released in early 2025 when all programs are concluded.

TOTAL SERVED

Through nonprofit grantees, the Derecho Recovery Fund served 6,007 individuals living in 2,034 households * through emergency financial assistance, resource navigation, and home repair. Basic Emergency Financial Assistance provided up to \$500 in direct assistance per household to cover food and basic needs. Flexible Emergency Financial Assistance and Resource Navigation provided \$500 - \$1,500 in direct assistance to help with recovery costs from basic needs to temporary housing and light touch case management to connect households with additional disaster and non-disaster resources. Home repair services provided included debris removal, sealing the envelope of the home, and repairing mechanical systems to restore habitability.

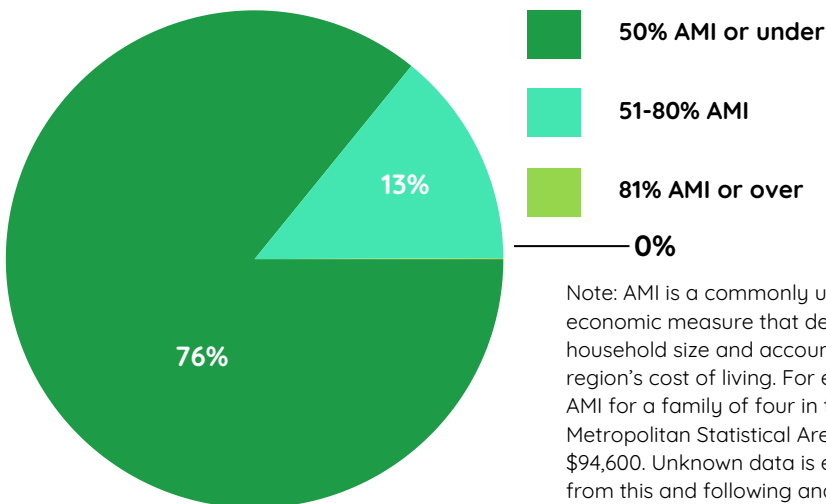
	INDIVIDUALS	HOUSEHOLDS
Basic Emergency Financial Assistance	1,902	696
Flexible Emergency Financial Assistance	3,946	1,276
Resource Navigation	3,352	1,064
Home Repair	159 *	62 *
Total Unduplicated Served	6,007	2,034

* Home repair programs are still in progress; final individuals and households served will be available in final reporting

Emergency Financial Assistance

INCOME LEVEL

% of Area Median Income (AMI)

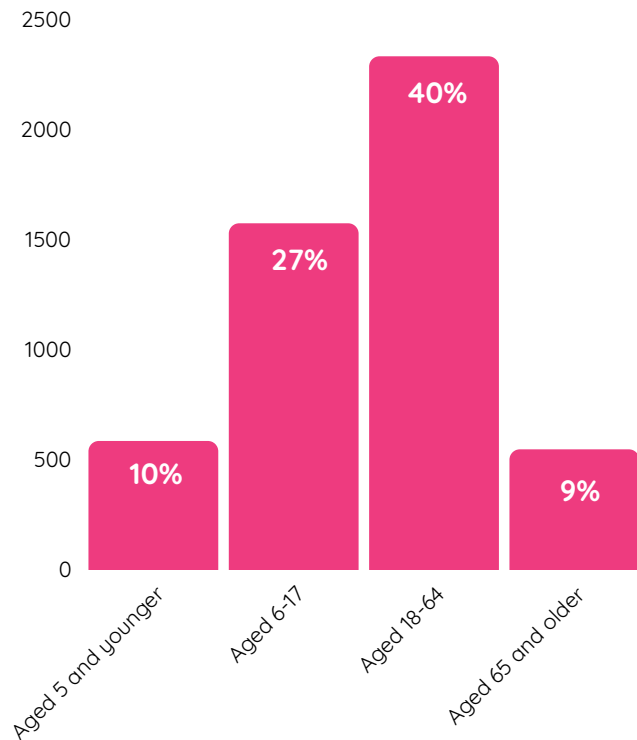


Note: AMI is a commonly used economic measure that depends on household size and accounts for a region's cost of living. For example, AMI for a family of four in the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2024 is \$94,600. Unknown data is excluded from this and following analyses.

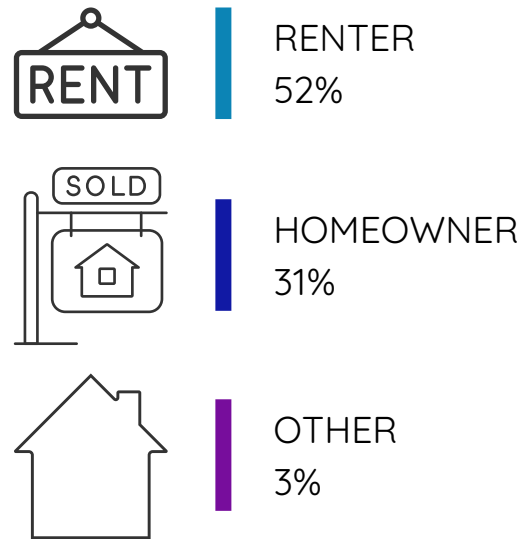
Average Assistance Provided per household

Basic Emergency Financial Assistance	\$342.67
Flexible Emergency Financial Assistance	\$891.49

AGE



LIVING SITUATION



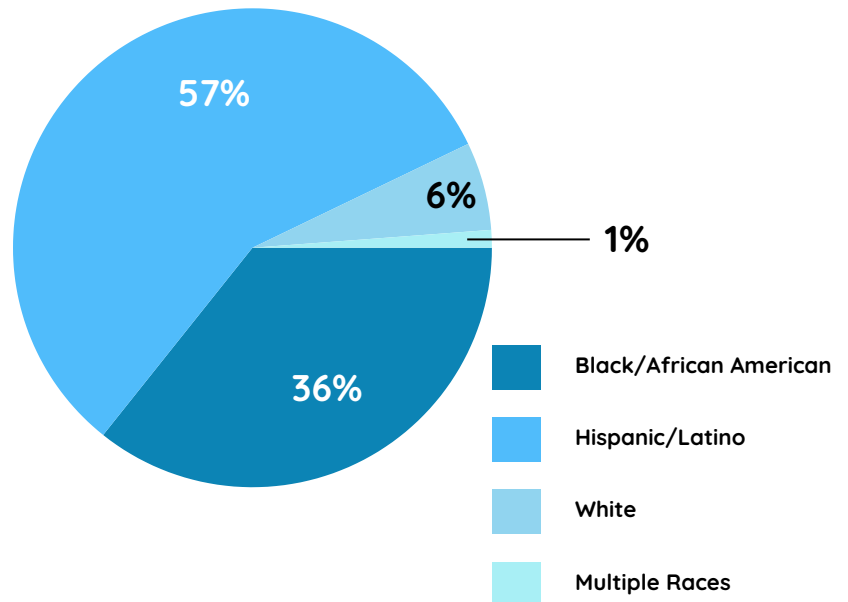
Client Story

During the storms in May, Julie hid with her granddaughter in her home. When the sky cleared, she found herself facing challenges. Julie’s family lost power for almost a week and they drained their savings staying in a hotel. Because of the grant from Greater Houston Disaster Alliance, Julie’s family made it through. She said, “You really came through for us, and I’m grateful for that.” Julie needs oxygen and a nebulizer to help with her asthma and other medical conditions. After they lost power, she, her husband Ken, and their 13-year-old granddaughter had to get a hotel. They expected they would stay a day or two at most. Money ran out on day four. “We are on a fixed income,” Julie said. “I’m disabled, retired from METRO, and my husband is a disabled Veteran. We spent all the money we had to make sure we had a roof over our head.” Because of the generosity of our community, Julie and her family received emergency financial assistance, paid for two more days in the hotel, and purchased food that had spoiled in their fridge during the power outage. “Had it not been for Catholic Charities, I don’t know how we would have paid for another night in the hotel or gotten food,” Julie said. “It was like a weight was lifted off my shoulders.”

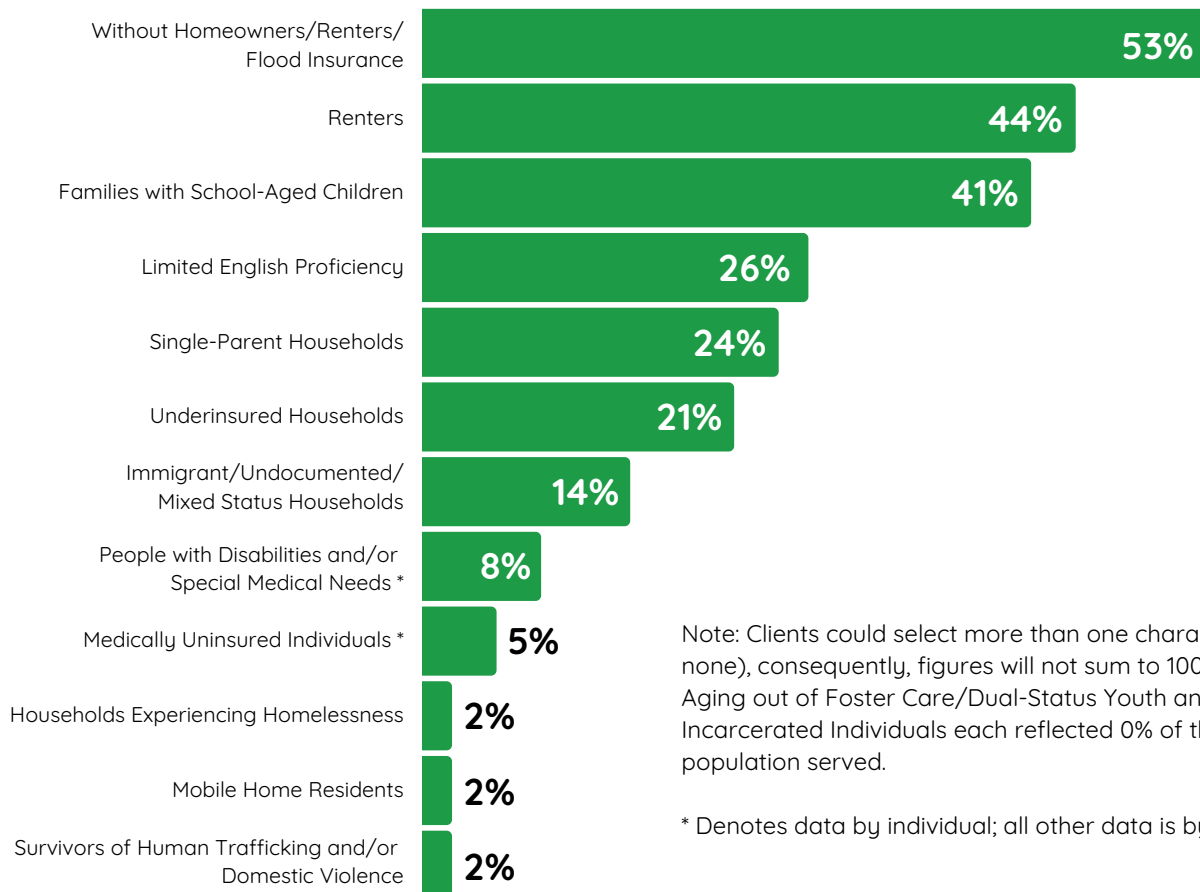
POPULATIONS SERVED

Research has shown that some groups are disproportionately impacted by disasters. At the same time, these groups are the least likely to have access to or receive assistance to recover following disasters. That is why, in addition to total need, relative need, and home-damaged data, Greater Houston Disaster Alliance prioritizes vulnerable populations when setting its fund strategy, establishing program guidelines, and making grant recommendations to the Disaster Recovery Council.

RACE/ETHNICITY



VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



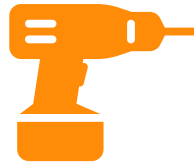
Note: Clients could select more than one characteristic (or none), consequently, figures will not sum to 100. Youth Aging out of Foster Care/Dual-Status Youth and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals each reflected 0% of the population served.

* Denotes data by individual; all other data is by household

Home Repair



62
home repairs
completed



42
repairs in
progress



\$12,017
average repair cost
per home

In partnership with six home repair nonprofits and system coordinator Connective, the Derecho Recovery Fund aims to repair at least 104 homes throughout the City of Houston and Harris, Montgomery, and Waller counties. Connective builds and implements an online, coordinated application for home repair that connects eligible applicants to fund grantees providing home repair services.

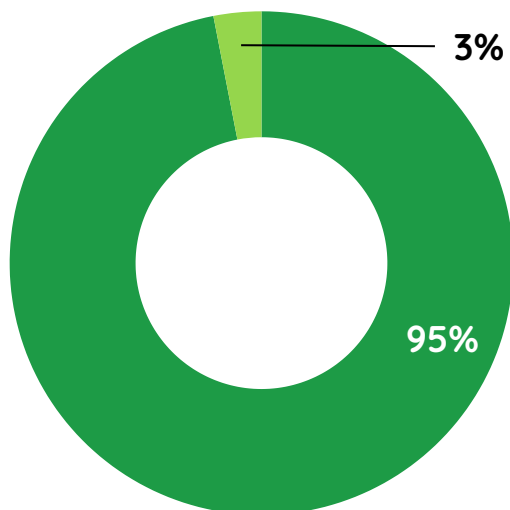
Client Story

Mrs. D. and her daughter have been living together in their home in the Trinity Gardens neighborhood since 2019. During the Derecho in May, a neighbor's large tree fell on their roof and other areas were damaged from the high winds. She filed an insurance claim, but her deductible was \$10,000 which she didn't have. FEMA also denied her application for assistance. Weeks passed and Mrs. D. and her daughter began to feel hopeless as they watched water leak through the ceiling into their kitchen and bedrooms. They wondered what the point of homeowners insurance was when the deductibles were so high. Then one day when she reached out to the United Way 211 helpline, she was referred to the Disaster Alliance's home repair program and matched with Houston Habitat for Humanity. **That call changed everything for Mrs. D. and her daughter.** Contractors replaced the entire roof and patched and painted damage in all three bedrooms and the kitchen. Her home is now safe, structurally sound, and leak-free. She told Houston Habitat that she was very impressed with the work done and that she was grateful for the kindness of the Houston Habitat crew.

INCOME LEVEL

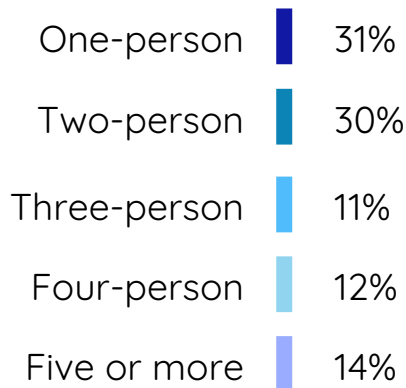
% of Area Median Income

■ Under 50% AMI ■ Under 80% AMI



95% of home repair clients **cannot afford their insurance deductible.**

Household Size



Housing Type



85%
single-family homes



13%
mobile homes, townhomes, duplexes/ fourplexes, or condos

Home Repair Tier Standards

The use of Tiers for disaster home repairs was initiated after Hurricane Harvey as a way to establish community standards and to provide the same level of service across home repair agencies. A tiered system creates shared definitions about priorities and sequencing of repairs, levels of habitability, and outlines repairs and estimated costs.

Given the distinct impacts of the flooding, severe storms, and tornadoes, the Disaster Alliance covered the following services through the Derecho Recovery Fund program:

Tier 0	Tier 1	Tier 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency/urgent tree and debris removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary tarping to seal the envelope during construction Gutting/removal of damaged interior building materials Required demolition and structural repairs Roof repair/replacement Foundation repairs Window replacement Siding repairs/replacement Gutter installation Mold control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair of hazardous electrical conditions Mechanical repairs or interim temperature controls Plumbing repairs for essential fixtures Repairs to water and/or sewage lines Accessibility modifications Replacement of flooring, insulation, and sheetrock Costs for temporary storage

Donors

Thanks to the many generous organizations and individuals, the Fund has raised and invested nearly \$2.9 million 20 local organizations that have served more than 6,000 people in more than 2,000 households to-date.

\$500,000

CenterPoint Energy Foundation • Comcast • Wal-Mart Foundation

\$100,000 - \$499,999

Aramco Americas • Bank of America • bp Foundation • ConocoPhillips • ExxonMobil
Powell Foundation • Randa & K. C. Weiner • Wells Fargo

\$25,000 - \$99,999

Enbridge • Fidelity Charitable Catalyst Fund • Port Houston • PwC Charitable Foundation
Shell USA Inc. • Texas Mutual Insurance Company

Nonprofit Partners

Thank you to these incredible organizations for providing critical recovery resources to our neighbors in need. Greater Houston Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Houston also extends thanks to the Grants Committee and Disaster Recovery Council for their recommendations and approvals, respectively, of all investments made from the Fund.

Basic Emergency Financial Assistance

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (\$50,000)
Community Assistance Center (\$30,000)
Fifth Ward CRC (\$50,000)
HAAM Social Services (\$30,000)
Target Hunger (\$50,000)
Tejano Center for Community Concerns, Inc. (\$50,000)

Flexible Emergency Financial Assistance & Resource Navigation

Community Family Center/Centros Familiares de la Comunidad (\$100,000)
East Harris County Empowerment Council (\$100,000)
Easter Seals of Greater Houston, Inc. (\$100,000)
Family Houston (\$100,000)
Hope Disaster Recovery, LLC (\$100,000)
Memorial Assistance Ministries, Inc. (\$100,000)
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston (\$100,000)
Volunteers of America Texas (\$100,000)
Wesley Community Center (\$100,000)
West Street Recovery (\$150,000)

Home Repair

Hope Disaster Recovery, LLC (\$350,000)
Houston Habitat for Humanity (\$392,200)
Rebuilding Together Houston (\$175,000)
Tejano Center for Community Concerns, Inc. (\$175,000)
The Restoration Team (\$175,000)
West Street Recovery (\$200,000)

System Coordination: Home Repair

Connective (\$121,500)