

Long Term Recovery Committee

The objective of the organization is to provide additional assistance in the post-recovery process for victims of disasters by bringing together various levels of assistance and resources to persons and families in need.

The mission of is to address the **unmet disaster caused or aggravated needs** within local communities; by using collaborative efforts between the public, private, interfaith, and voluntary agencies.

Membership should include both local and outside the community members that can contribute information, resources, knowledge, or financial support to the recovery process:

- Faith Based Organizations
- Civic Clubs
- Interested Individuals
- Local Non Profit Organizations
- National Organizations that provide specific Disaster services (see list at the end)
- Local Government Agencies providing support or guidance i.e.
 - Health Department
 - Codes and Compliances
 - Department of Social Services
 - Mental Health

LTRC Best Practices

A Long term recovery committee should include a diverse and broad community-wide representation in order that the demographics of the service area may be represented.

- ◆ A LTRC should develop a casework process that:
 - Can assist individuals affected by a disaster to develop a personal recovery plan that includes personal responsibility and accountability
 - Examine all resources available and connect the client with needed additional assets needed to complete recovery
 - Provides advocacy for the clients to assist them in accessing all resources needed and help them to appeal decisions when possible
 - Can separate disaster caused needs from ongoing social services, mental health, or physical health needs and assist client only with disaster caused needs. Referrals should be made to appropriate community resources for social services, mental or physical health needs.
- ◆ A LTRC is able to gather local community and outside resources to assist individuals in restoring themselves and their families to as close a pre-disaster condition as possible;
- ◆ A LTRC is responsible to facilitate the disbursement of all resources to individuals/families with verifiable unmet needs;
- ◆ A LTRC develop and maintain a data base of community and outside resources that may be made available in time of disaster to meet unmet needs of individuals/families;
- ◆ To coordinate disaster recovery efforts with Federal, State and local authorities to help individuals and the community achieve recovery
- ◆ To maintain readiness to provide a long term response program for post disaster recovery;
- ◆ To provide public education, as it relates to post disaster needs.

Grievance Procedure

If a client's claim for assistance has been rejected the client may want to appeal the decision. An appeals process is a valuable consideration for a recovery committee. A good guideline would be to have a committee to review decisions, address issues and inform the client in writing.