

Calendar No. 450

117TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
117-133 }

ACHIEVING EQUITY IN DISASTER
RESPONSE, RECOVERY, AND RESILIENCY
ACT OF 2022

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE

TO ACCOMPANY

S. 3502

TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY,
AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION AT THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



JULY 21, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

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AND RESILIENCY ACT OF 2022

JULY 21, 2022.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 3502]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 3502) to establish an Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment (in the nature of a substitute) and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

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I. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

S. 3502, the *Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022*, establishes the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion (OCREI) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to improve access to and quality of disaster assistance for underserved communities and eliminate disparities in the delivery of disaster assistance to these communities. The bill also streamlines efforts to promote accessibility by incorporating

the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) into the OCREI to ensure a coordinated approach across the agency in the protection of rights and needs of individuals with disabilities in disaster response. Additionally, this bill mandates the Director of the newly established office to develop measures to evaluate the effectiveness of FEMA’s activities in supporting underserved communities. The bill would require biannual public reporting to ensure the office is held accountable for successful implementation of efforts to improve access to and quality of assistance in all phases of the disaster—from immediate response through to resilience to future events.

II. BACKGROUND AND THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Inequity in the distribution of disaster response resources has played a significant role in all types of disasters, including response to Hurricanes Katrina,¹ Harvey,² and Laura,³ as well as flooding in the Midwest.⁴ FEMA’s responses to disasters over past decades have been plagued by racial, geographic, socioeconomic, and other disparities that have not been adequately addressed.⁵

FEMA’s 2020 National Advisory Council report, which was led by the Chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, found the following:

Many FEMA programs do not consider the principle of equity in financial assistance relief By perpetually assisting larger communities that already have considerable resources, the smaller, less resource-rich, less-affluent communities cannot access funding to appropriately prepare for a disaster, leading to inadequate response and recovery, and little opportunity for mitigation.⁶

For example, research has found that counties having high or medium percentages of Black, Hispanic, and Native American populations may be associated with lower payments under FEMA’s Public Assistance program, even when controlling for damages.⁷ Additional research indicates:

holding disaster costs constant, the more FEMA money a county receives, the more whites’ wealth tends to grow, and the more blacks’ wealth tends to decline, all else equal. In other words, the way in which federal assistance

¹“The Real Damage” *Why FEMA is Denying Disaster Aid to Black Families that have Lived for Generations in the Deep South*, *Washington Post* (July 11, 2021) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/07/11/fema-black-owned-property/>); *See also Advisers Rebuke FEMA for Racial Disparities in Disaster Aid*, *Scientific American* (Jan. 7, 2021) (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/advisers-rebuke-fema-for-racial-disparities-in-disaster-aid/>).

²*How Federal Disaster Money Favors the Rich*, *National Public Radio* (Mar. 5, 2019) (<https://www.npr.org/2019/03/05/688786177/how-federal-disaster-money-favors-the-rich>).

³*Why Does Disaster Aid Often Favor White People?* *New York Times* (June 7, 2021) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/07/climate/fema-race-climate.html>).

⁴Cristina E. Munoz and Eric Tate, *Unequal Recovery? Federal Resource Distribution after a Midwest Flood Disaster*, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* (hMay 17, 2016).

⁵*See, e.g., FEMA Says It’s Still Working to Fix Racial Disparities in Disaster Aid*, *New York Times* (Oct. 27, 2021) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/climate/fema-aid-racial-disparities.html>).

⁶Federal Emergency Management Agency, *National Advisory Council Report to the FEMA Administrator* (Nov. 30, 2020).

⁷Simone J. Domingue and Christopher T. Emrich, *Social Vulnerability and Procedural Equity: Exploring the Distribution of Disaster Aid Across Counties in the United States*, *The American Review of Public Administration* (June 18, 2019).

is currently administered seems to be exacerbating rather than ameliorating wealth inequalities that unfold after costly natural hazards.⁸

The federal government must execute disaster response and recovery activities that are properly tailored to address the unique needs and circumstances of impacted communities. Resilience from natural and man-made disasters cannot be achieved when disparities exist in affected communities. This legislation seeks to improve those efforts.⁹

The OCREI, established by this bill, would work to improve the access to and quality of disaster assistance for underserved communities and eliminate disparities in the delivery of disaster assistance to these communities. The creation of OCREI would be a reorganization and expansion of the current Office of Equal Rights (OER) and the ODIC, and it would be led by a Director that reports directly to the FEMA Administrator.¹⁰

Responsibilities of the new office would include evaluating FEMA programs and activities to promote access to and quality of assistance for underserved communities, entering into agreements with and awarding grants to nonprofits working to support underserved communities, and engaging with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial governmental entities and advocacy organizations in underserved communities on a regular basis. These efforts will ensure that underserved communities have a clear avenue to being heard and supported by those who have the power to address their concerns. The bill also streamlines efforts to promote access to and quality of assistance for the disabled communities by incorporating the ODIC into the OCREI to ensure a coordinated approach across the agency in the protection of rights and needs of individuals with disabilities in disaster response.

Additionally, this bill mandates the Director of the office to develop measures that evaluate the effectiveness of FEMA's activities in supporting underserved communities. The bill would also require biannual public reporting to ensure the office is held accountable for successful implementation of efforts to improve access to and quality of assistance in all phases of the disaster—from immediate response through to resilience to future events.

III. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chairman Gary Peters (D–MI) introduced S. 3502, the *Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022*, on January 13, 2022, with Senator Alex Padilla (D–CA). The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. The Committee considered S. 3502 at a business meeting on February 2, 2022. The bill was ordered reported favorably by voice vote *en bloc*, with Senators Scott and Hawley recorded as voting “no.” Senators Peters, Carper, Hassan, Sinema, Rosen, Padilla, Ossoff, Portman, Lankford, Scott and Hawley were present for the vote. Consistent with Committee Rule 3(G), the

⁸Junia Howell and James R. Elliott, *As Disasters Rise, So Does Inequality*, Socius (Dec. 4, 2018).

⁹Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Organizational Chart* (Aug. 13, 2021) (https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_org-chart_20210819.pdf).

¹⁰*Id.*

Committee reports the bill with a technical amendment by mutual agreement of the Chairman and Ranking Member.

IV. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE BILL, AS REPORTED

Section 1. Short title

This section designates the short title of the bill as the “Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022.”

Section 2. Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Community Inclusion

Subsection (a) amends section 513 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321b) to create the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion.

Section 513, subsection (a) defines the terms “appropriate committees of Congress,” “director,” “disaster assistance,” “office,” and “underserved community.”

Section 513, subsection (b) renames Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Equal Rights as the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion. Subsection (b) designates any reference to the Office of Equal Rights of the Agency to mean the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion.

Section 513, subsection (c) delineates the Director’s duty to report to the Administrator of FEMA. It also lays out the experience and expertise required for someone in the Director’s role.

Section 513, subsection (d) designates the purpose of the Office, which is to improve access to and quality of disaster assistance resources for underserved communities, eliminate disparities in the delivery of disaster assistance resources, and carry out any other responsibilities of the former Office of Equal Rights.

Section 513, subsection (e) delineates the Director’s authorities and duties to improve underserved community access to disaster assistance before and after a disaster, as well as the quality of FEMA assistance received by underserved communities. This subsection also requires the Director to review and eliminate disparities in the delivery of preparedness, response, and recovery programs and activities at FEMA. Additionally, the subsection requires the Director to develop measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities aimed at reducing disparities in the services provided to underserved communities. This subsection also requires the Office to coordinate with other offices to carry out its mandate.

Section 513, subsection (f) directs the Administrator to evaluate agency grants and contracts in accordance with the Office’s mandate.

Section 513, subsection (g) creates a position for a Disability Coordinator with the Office.

Section 513, subsection (h) requires the Office to submit reports to Congress that describe the activities carried out including, outreach and consultation efforts, measures developed to determine effectiveness of the Office’s activities, and the number of investigations conducted by the Office into allegations of disparate disaster assistance.

Section 513, subsection (i) authorizes the funds needed to implement this section.

Subsection (b) of section 2 amends title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 by removing the existing section 513.

Subsection (c) amends the table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Subsection (d) directs the Office to consult with State, local, territorial, and tribal governments, along with community-based organizations, to determine the impact of COVID–19 in underserved communities. The subsection also prevents the Federal Advisory Committee Act from applying to these consultations.

V. EVALUATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT

Pursuant to the requirements of paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee has considered the regulatory impact of this bill and determined that the bill will have no regulatory impact within the meaning of the rules. The Committee agrees with the Congressional Budget Office’s statement that the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

VI. CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2022.

Hon. GARY PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 3502, the Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jon Sperl.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

S. 3502, Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on February 2, 2022			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	9	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3502 would rename the Office of Equal Rights within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion and would require the office to undertake additional activities with respect to disaster assistance for underserved communities. Specifically, the bill would require the office to:

- Develop more comprehensive measures to evaluate the effectiveness of disaster assistance provided to underserved communities,
- Establish an initiative to award grants to nonprofit entities that serve those communities,
- Coordinate with other federal agencies and other interested parties to improve the provision of disaster assistance to people with disabilities; and
- Report to the Congress every two years on the results of the new measures and on allegations of unequal disaster assistance investigated by the office.

S. 3502 would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary to implement the legislation.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER S. 3502

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2022–2027
Estimated Authorization	0	1	2	3	4	6	16
Estimated Outlays	0	*	1	2	3	3	9

* = between zero and \$500,000.

In fiscal year 2022, FEMA allocated about \$7 million for the office, which employs 31 staff. Using information from the agency about the activities it currently performs, CBO estimates that the office would require the equivalent of three additional staff at annual cost of about \$160,000 each to implement the new requirements in the bill.

The bill also would require FEMA to make grants to nonprofit entities to help with disaster assistance to underserved communities. CBO expects that FEMA would promulgate regulations for those grants in 2023 and gradually increase the number and amount of grants awarded over the next five years. Using information on historical patterns of spending for similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing S.3502 would cost \$9 million over 2022–2027 period, mostly for the costs of grants, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jon Sperl. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

VII. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows: (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in brackets, new matter is printed in *italic*, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) * * *

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

* * * * *

TITLE V—NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

* * * * *

[Sec. 513. Disability Coordinator.]

Sec. 513. Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion.

* * * * *

TITLE V—NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

* * * * *

[SEC. 513. DISABILITY COORDINATOR.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—After consultation with organizations representing individuals with disabilities, the National Council on Disabilities, and the Interagency Coordinating Council on Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities, established under Executive Order No. 13347 (6 U.S.C. 312 note), the Administrator shall appoint a Disability Coordinator. The Disability Coordinator shall report directly to the Administrator, in order to ensure that the needs of individuals with disabilities are being properly addressed in emergency preparedness and disaster relief.

[(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Disability Coordinator shall be responsible for—

[(1) providing guidance and coordination on matters related to individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

【(2) interacting with the staff of the Agency, the National Council on Disabilities, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities established under Executive Order No. 13347 (6 U.S.C. 312 note), other agencies of the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal government authorities regarding the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

【(3) consulting with organizations that represent the interests and rights of individuals with disabilities about the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

【(4) ensuring the coordination and dissemination of best practices and model evacuation plans for individuals with disabilities;

【(5) ensuring the development of training materials and a curriculum for training of emergency response providers, State, local, and tribal government officials, and others on the needs of individuals with disabilities;

【(6) promoting the accessibility of telephone hotlines and websites regarding emergency preparedness, evacuations, and disaster relief;

【(7) working to ensure that video programming distributors, including broadcasters, cable operators, and satellite television services, make emergency information accessible to individuals with hearing and vision disabilities;

【(8) ensuring the availability of accessible transportation options for individuals with disabilities in the event of an evacuation;

【(9) providing guidance and implementing policies to ensure that the rights and wishes of individuals with disabilities regarding post-evacuation residency and relocation are respected;

【(10) ensuring that meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities are included in the components of the national preparedness system established under section 644 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006; and

【(11) any other duties as assigned by the Administrator.】

SEC. 513. OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY, AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

(a) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section—*

(1) *the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—*

(A) *the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and*

(B) *the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;*

(2) *the term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion;*

(3) *the term ‘disaster assistance’ means assistance provided under titles IV and V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.).*

(4) the term ‘Office’ means the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion;

(5) the term ‘underserved community’ means—

(A) the Native American and Alaskan Native community;

(B) the African-American community;

(C) the Asian community;

(D) the Hispanic (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin) community;

(E) the Pacific Islander community;

(F) the Middle Eastern and North African community;

(G) a rural community;

(H) a low-income community;

(I) the disability community; and

(J) any other historically disadvantaged community, as determined by the Director.

(b) OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, EQUITY AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Equal Rights of the Agency shall, on and after the date of enactment of the Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022, be known as the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Office of Equal Rights of the Agency in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Community Inclusion.

(c) DIRECTOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall be headed by a Director, who shall report to the Administrator.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Director shall have documented experience and expertise in civil rights, underserved community inclusion research, disaster preparedness, or resilience disparities elimination.

(d) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to—

(1) improve underserved community access to disaster assistance;

(2) improve the quality of disaster assistance received by underserved communities;

(3) eliminate racial, ethnic, and other underserved community disparities in the delivery of disaster assistance; and

(4) carry out such other responsibilities of the Office of Equal Rights as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(e) AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall be responsible for—

(A) improving—

(i) underserved community access to disaster assistance before and after a disaster; and

(ii) the quality of Agency assistance underserved communities receive;

(B) reviewing preparedness, response, and recovery programs and activities of the Agency to ensure the elimination of underserved community disparities in the delivery of such programs and activities; and

(C) carrying out such other responsibilities of the Office of Equal Rights as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

(2) **REDUCING DISPARITIES IN PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director shall develop measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities of program offices in the Agency and the activities of recipients aimed at reducing disparities in the services provided to underserved communities.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—The measures developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) evaluate community outreach activities, language services, workforce cultural competence, historical assistance for grants and loans provided to individuals, State, local, tribal, and territorial governments, the effects of disaster declaration thresholds on underserved communities, the percentage of contracts awarded to underserved and minority-owned businesses, historical barriers to equitable assistance across race and class during and after disasters, and other areas, as determined by the Director; and

(ii) identify the communities implicated in the evaluations conducted under clause (i).

(C) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFICES.**—In carrying out this section, the Director shall—

(i) participate in scenario-based disaster response exercises at the Agency;

(ii) coordinate with the Office of Minority Health of the Department of Health and Human Services;

(iii) coordinate with the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Agriculture;

(iv) as appropriate, coordinate with other relevant offices across the Federal Government, including by leading a voluntary task force to address disaster response needs of underserved communities;

(v) coordinate with the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department; and

(vi) investigate allegations of unequal disaster assistance based on race or ethnic origin or refer those allegations to the appropriate office.

(f) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—In carrying out this section, to further inclusion and engagement of under-served communities throughout preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation and to eliminate racial, ethnic, and other underserved community disparities in the delivery of disaster assistance, as described in subsection (d), the Administrator shall—

(1) administer and evaluate Agency programs and activities, including the programs and activities of recipients of prepared-

ness, response, recovery, and mitigation grants and contracts, to—

(A) further inclusion and engagement of underserved communities and underserved and minority-owned businesses; and

(B) improve outcomes for underserved communities tied to Agency programs and activities; and

(2) establish an underserved community initiative to award grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with, nonprofit entities.

(g) **DISABILITY COORDINATOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There shall be within the Office a Disability Coordinator to ensure that the needs of individuals with disabilities are being properly addressed by proactively engaging with disability and underserved communities and State, local, and tribal governments in emergency preparedness and disaster relief.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Disability Coordinator shall be responsible for—

(A) providing guidance and coordination on matters relating to individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

(B) interacting with the staff of the Agency, the National Council on Disability, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities established under Executive Order 13347 (6 U.S.C. 314 note; relating to individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness), other agencies of the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal government authorities relating to the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other man-made disaster;

(C) consulting with stakeholders that represent the interests and rights of individuals with disabilities about the needs of individuals with disabilities in emergency planning requirements and relief efforts in the event of a natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other manmade disaster;

(D) ensuring the coordination and dissemination of best practices and model evacuation plans and sheltering for individuals with disabilities;

(E) ensuring the development of training materials and a curriculum for training emergency response providers, State, local, and tribal government officials, and others on the needs of individuals with disabilities;

(F) promoting the accessibility of telephone hotlines and websites relating to emergency preparedness, evacuations, and disaster relief;

(G) working to ensure that video programming distributors, including broadcasters, cable operators, and satellite television services, make emergency information accessible to individuals with hearing and vision disabilities;

(H) providing guidance to State, local, and tribal government officials and other individuals, and implementing

policies, relating to the availability of accessible transportation options for individuals with disabilities in the event of an evacuation;

(I) providing guidance and implementing policies to external stakeholders to ensure that the rights and wishes of individuals with disabilities regarding post-evacuation residency and relocation are respected;

(J) ensuring that meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities is a component of the national preparedness system established under section 644 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 744);

(K) coordinate technical assistance for Agency programs based on input from underserved communities through a designee of the Director; and (L) any other duties assigned by the Director.

(h) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Achieving Equity in Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience Act of 2022, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing the activities carried out under this section during the period for which the report is being prepared.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a narrative on activities conducted by the Office, including a description of outreach and consultation efforts with advocacy organizations and human resource providers;

(B) the results of the measures developed to evaluate the effectiveness of activities aimed at reducing preparedness, response, and recovery disparities; and

(C) the number and types of allegations of unequal disaster assistance investigated by the Director or referred to other appropriate offices.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

* * * * *