

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 1796
OFFERED BY MS. TITUS OF NEVADA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2023”.

4 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
5 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.

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

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

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED DISASTER APPLI-
3 CATION SYSTEM.—

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

9 (A) facilitate the administration of the uni-
10 versal application for direct Federal disaster as-
11 sistance established under section 3;

12 (B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-
13 sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, and in ac-
14 cordance with applicable laws, regulations, and
15 the privacy and data protections provided under
16 this section; and

17 (C) support the detection, prevention, and
18 investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, or discrimi-
19 nation in the administration of disaster assist-
20 ance programs.

21 (2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-
22 tablishing and maintaining the unified disaster ap-
23 plication system under this subsection, the Adminis-
24 trator may collect and maintain disaster assistance
25 information received from a disaster assistance
26 agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for

1 a disaster assistance program and share such infor-
2 mation with any other disaster assistance agency or
3 block grant recipient using such system.

4 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall
5 ensure that the unified disaster application system
6 established and maintained under this subsection—

7 (A) allows an applicant to receive status
8 updates on an application for disaster assist-
9 ance programs submitted through such system;

10 (B) allows for applicants to update disaster
11 assistance information throughout the recovery
12 journeys of such applicants in accordance with
13 established application timeframes;

14 (C) allows for the distribution to applicants
15 of information about additional recovery re-
16 sources that may be available in a disaster
17 stricken area;

18 (D) provides an applicant with information
19 and documentation relating to an application
20 for a disaster assistance program submitted by
21 such applicant; and

22 (E) contains any other capabilities deter-
23 mined necessary by the head of a disaster as-
24 sistance agency.

1 (b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-
2 tate the collection of disaster assistance information into
3 the unified disaster application system established under
4 subsection (a) only after the following requirements have
5 been met:

6 (1) The Administrator certifies that the unified
7 disaster application system substantially complies
8 with the data security standards and best practices
9 established pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 35
10 of title 44, United States Code, and any other appli-
11 cable Federal information security policy.

12 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security pub-
13 lishes a privacy impact assessment for the unified
14 disaster application system, in accordance with sec-
15 tion 208(b)(1)(B) of the E-Government Act of 2002
16 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note).

17 (3) The Administrator, after consulting with
18 disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard
19 rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies,
20 block grant recipients, and personnel granted access
21 to disaster assistance information to protect such in-
22 formation from improper disclosure.

23 (c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL
24 RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
2 thorize the additional collection, maintenance, shar-
3 ing, and use of disaster assistance information by
4 publishing a notice on the unified disaster applica-
5 tion system established under subsection (a) that in-
6 cludes a detailed description of—

7 (A) the specific amendments to the collec-
8 tion, maintenance, and sharing of disaster as-
9 sistance information authorized;

10 (B) why each such amendment to how dis-
11 aster assistance information is collected, main-
12 tained, or shared is necessary to carry out the
13 purposes of a disaster assistance program and
14 consistent with the fair information practice
15 principles; and

16 (C) the disaster assistance agencies and
17 block grant recipients that will be granted ac-
18 cess to the additional information to carry out
19 the purposes of any disaster assistance pro-
20 gram.

21 (2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIRE-
22 MENTS.—The publication of a notice under para-
23 graph (1) of a revision to the unified disaster applica-
24 tion system of records prior to any new collection,
25 or uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to

1 carry out the purposes of a disaster assistance pro-
2 gram with regard to a disaster declared by the
3 President under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T.
4 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to sat-
6 isfy the notice and publication requirements of sec-
7 tion 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for
8 the entire period of performance for any assistance
9 provided under a disaster assistance program.

10 (3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-
11 QUIREMENTS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of
13 a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-
14 tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
15 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
16 U.S.C. 5170; 5191) by the President, the Ad-
17 ministrator may waive the requirements of sub-
18 chapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United
19 States Code, with respect to voluntary collection
20 of information for the entire period of perform-
21 ance for any assistance provided under a dis-
22 aster assistance program.

23 (B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the
24 waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the
25 Administrator shall—

1 (i) promptly post on a website of the
2 Federal Emergency Management Agency a
3 brief justification for such waiver, the an-
4 ticipated period of time such waiver will be
5 in effect, and the disaster assistance offices
6 within the Federal Emergency Manage-
7 ment Agency to which such waiver shall
8 apply; and

9 (ii) update the information relating to
10 such waiver, as applicable.

11 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION
12 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
15 Comptroller General of the United States shall
16 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-
17 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver
18 of the information collection requirements de-
19 scribed in paragraph (3).

20 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required
21 under subparagraph (A) shall include an assess-
22 ment of the extent to which a waiver described
23 in paragraph (3) would—

1 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-
2 dividuals, small businesses, State, local and
3 tribal governments, and other persons;

4 (ii) affect the consistent application of
5 Federal laws relating to—

6 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

7 (II) security of information; and

8 (III) access to information; and

9 (iii) encourage or deter a State or
10 other entity from participating in the vol-
11 untary collection of information for the du-
12 ration of a major disaster or emergency.

13 (d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-
15 mit a Federal agency other than a disaster assist-
16 ance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through
17 (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the unified disaster
18 application system established under subsection (a)
19 for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assist-
20 ance if such agency enters into an agreement con-
21 taining the terms described in paragraph (2).

22 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement en-
23 tered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-
24 lowing terms:

25 (A) The Federal agency shall—

1 (i) collect, share, maintain, and use
2 disaster assistance information in compli-
3 ance with this section and any policies of
4 the Federal Emergency Management
5 Agency and any information protection and
6 use policies of such Federal agency; and

7 (ii) train any personnel granted access
8 to disaster assistance information on the
9 rules of behavior established by the Admin-
10 istrator under subsection (b)(3).

11 (B) In the event of any unauthorized dis-
12 closure of disaster assistance information, the
13 Federal agency shall—

14 (i) notify the Administrator within 24
15 hours of discovering any such unauthorized
16 disclosure;

17 (ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-
18 trator in the investigation and remediation
19 of any such disclosure;

20 (iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution
21 of a person responsible for such disclosure;
22 and

23 (iv) assume the responsibility for any
24 compensation, civil liability, or other reme-
25 diation measures, whether awarded by a

1 judgment of a court or agreed as a com-
2 promise of any potential claims by or on
3 behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-
4 ing credit monitoring and remediation
5 services, for an improper disclosure that
6 is—

7 (I) caused, directly or indirectly,
8 by the acts or omissions of officers,
9 employees, and contractors of the
10 agency; or

11 (II) from any electronic system
12 of records that is created or main-
13 tained by the agency pursuant to sec-
14 tion 552a(e) of title 5, United States
15 Code.

16 (3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—
17 The Administrator shall publish an agency agree-
18 ment entered into under this subsection on the same
19 website as the unified disaster application system es-
20 tablished under subsection (a).

21 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use
22 of disaster assistance information that is subject to the
23 requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States
24 Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant re-
25 cipients—

1 (1) shall not be—

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

4 (B) subject to the remaining computer
5 matching provisions of section 552a of such
6 title; and

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

9 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”
11 means—

12 (A) a person who applies for disaster as-
13 sistance from a disaster assistance program;
14 and

15 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-
17 aster assistance.

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

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

1 (A) the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency;

3 (B) the Department of Housing and
4 Urban Development;

5 (C) the Small Business Administration;

6 (D) the Department of Agriculture; and

7 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-
8 ministrator permits to use the unified disaster
9 application system under subsection (d).

10 (4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The
11 term “disaster assistance information” includes any
12 personal, demographic, biographical, geographical,
13 financial information, or other information that a
14 disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is
15 authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to proc-
16 ess an application for disaster assistance or other-
17 wise carry out a disaster assistance program.

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

20 (A) any program that provides assistance
21 to individuals and households under title IV or
22 title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
23 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170
24 et seq.); or

1 (B) any other assistance program carried
2 out by a disaster assistance agency that pro-
3 vides assistance to an individual, household, or
4 organization related to a major disaster or
5 emergency declared under sections 401 or 501
6 of such Act, including—

7 (i) assistance for activities related to
8 disaster relief, long-term recovery, restora-
9 tion of infrastructure and housing, eco-
10 nomic revitalization, and mitigation that
11 are authorized under title I of the Housing
12 and Community Development Act of 1974
13 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

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

17 (iii) the distribution of food benefit al-
18 lotments as authorized under section 412
19 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
20 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
21 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp
22 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

1 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE.**

3 (a) **UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.**—The Administrator
4 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall de-
5 velop and establish a universal application for direct Fed-
6 eral disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted
7 by emergencies or disasters.

8 (b) **CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.**—

9 (1) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out this sec-
10 tion, the Administrator shall consult with the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (A) The Director of the Office of Manage-
13 ment and Budget.

14 (B) The Administrator of the Small Busi-
15 ness Administration.

16 (C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
17 Development.

18 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

19 (2) **SUPPORT.**—The entities described in para-
20 graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Ad-
21 ministrator.

22 (c) **SURVEY.**—The application established under sub-
23 section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the
24 demographic data of an applicant.

25 (d) **GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND**
26 **DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-**

1 GRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
2 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
3 States shall—

4 (1) conduct an assessment of improper and poten-
5 tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
6 individuals made to survivors of major disasters de-
7 clared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity
8 theft; and

9 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
10 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
11 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
12 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-
13 scribes—

14 (A) the prevalence of improper and poten-
15 tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
16 individuals made to registrants who used invalid
17 information to apply for disaster assistance, in-
18 cluding through identity theft;

19 (B) the number of disaster survivors whose
20 claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-
21 viduals were denied due to another individual
22 filing a fraudulent application using their per-
23 sonal identifying information;

24 (C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-
25 tion protocols in place on the Federal Emer-

1 agency Management Agency’s online application
2 for Federal disaster assistance for individuals;
3 and

4 (D) recommendations for improving the
5 identity verification protocols in place for Fed-
6 eral disaster assistance for individuals.

7 **SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert
9 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

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

13 (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of
14 damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting
15 “damaged by a major disaster”.

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

19 (1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
23 provide financial assistance to individuals and
24 households whose primary residence, utilities, or
25 residential infrastructure are damaged by a

1 major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-
2 tion measures that reduce threats to life and
3 property, or future damage to such residence,
4 utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

5 “(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
6 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
7 under this paragraph shall not be required to
8 show that the assistance can be met through
9 other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and
10 (2) in subsection (h)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-
12 cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-
13 section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection
14 (c)(1)(A)(i)”;

15 (B) in paragraph (3) by striking “para-
16 graphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs
17 (1), (2), and (3)”;

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

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

1 **SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.
3 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking para-
5 graph (2) and inserting the following:

6 “(2) REPAIRS.—

7 “(A) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RE-
8 PAIRS.—The President may provide financial
9 assistance for the repair of owner-occupied pri-
10 vate residences, utilities, and residential infra-
11 structure (such as a private access route) dam-
12 aged by a major disaster, or with respect to in-
13 dividuals with disabilities, rendered inaccessible
14 by a major disaster.

15 “(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The President
17 may provide direct assistance to individuals
18 and households who are unable to make
19 use of financial assistance under subpara-
20 graph (A) and when there is a lack of
21 available resources, for—

22 “(I) the repair of owner-occupied
23 private residences, utilities, and resi-
24 dential infrastructure (such as a pri-
25 vate access route) damaged by a
26 major disaster, or with respect to indi-

1 individuals with disabilities, rendered in-
2 accessible by a disaster; and

3 “(II) eligible hazard mitigation
4 measures that reduce the likelihood
5 and future damage to such residences,
6 utilities, and infrastructure.

7 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-
8 sistance under this subparagraph shall not
9 be eligible for assistance under paragraph
10 (1), unless otherwise determined by the
11 Administrator.

12 “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
13 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
14 under this paragraph shall not be required to
15 show that the assistance can be met through
16 other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

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

22 (1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4),
23 and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “para-
24 graphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and
25 subsection (e)”;

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

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

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408 of the Robert T.
7 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (f)(3)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State”; and

14 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(ii) TRANSPARENCY.—The President
17 shall make public the criteria used to
18 evaluate applications under clause (i) and
19 determine if a State or Indian tribal gov-
20 ernment meets the criteria described in
21 subparagraph (B) to administer grants de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1)(A).”;

23 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii)—

24 (i) in subclause (I) by striking “;
25 and” and inserting a semicolon;

1 (ii) in subclause (II) by striking the
2 period at the end and inserting a semi-
3 colon; and

4 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(III) outline the approach of the
7 State to help disaster survivors create
8 a permanent housing plan; and

9 “(IV) outline the approach of the
10 State to provide individual disaster
11 survivors some choice of communities
12 and properties, as practicable.”;

13 (C) by striking subparagraph (F);

14 (D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),
15 (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),
16 (H), and (I), respectively; and

17 (E) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-
18 nated—

19 (i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later
20 than 2 years after the date of enactment
21 of this paragraph, the” and inserting
22 “The”; and

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

25 (2) in subsection (g)—

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

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

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

9 (b) GAO ASSESSMENT.—Upon the expiration of the
10 authority to carry out section 408(f) of the Robert T.
11 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 5174(f)) as a pilot program, the Comptroller
13 General of the United States shall issue a report on the
14 effectiveness, successes, and challenges of any pilot pro-
15 gram carried out pursuant to such section and make rec-
16 ommendations on how to improve the provision of assist-
17 ance under such section.

18 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324(b)(2) of the Robert
20 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 5165b(b)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the
22 end the following:

23 “(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee
24 under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not

1 more than 12 percent of the total award
2 amount under each such section.

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

9 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Section 408(f)(1) of
10 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency As-
11 sistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is amended—

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

15 (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

16 **SEC. 8. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER**
17 **ASSISTANCE.**

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

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

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

25 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

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

5 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
6 ANCE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
8 Federal Emergency Management Agency may pro-
9 vide funding to a State agency established under
10 subsection (c) to establish, update, or operate a
11 website to provide information relating to post-dis-
12 aster recovery funding and resources to a community
13 or an individual impacted by a major disaster or
14 emergency.

15 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under
16 this subsection shall be—

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

18 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
19 of the State agency.

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

24 “(A) A list of Federal, State, and local
25 sources of post-disaster recovery funding or as-

1 sistance that may be available to a community
2 after a major disaster or emergency.

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

7 “(C) A technical guide that lists and ex-
8 plains the costs and benefits of alternatives
9 available to a community to mitigate the im-
10 pacts of a major disaster or emergency and pre-
11 pare for sequential hazards such as flooding
12 after a wildfire.

13 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that re-
14 ceives funding under this subsection shall cooperate
15 with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of
16 Agriculture, the Secretary of Housing and Urban
17 Development, the Administrator of the Small Busi-
18 ness Administration, and the Administrator of the
19 Federal Emergency Management Agency in devel-
20 oping a website under this subsection.

21 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
22 funding to establish a website under this subsection
23 shall update the website not less than once every 6
24 months.”.

1 **SEC. 9. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

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

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

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

12 “(1) The number of applications for assistance
13 under section 408, including a description of the
14 number of applications for assistance related to
15 housing under such section and the number of appli-
16 cations for assistance to address other needs under
17 section 408(e).

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

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

22 “(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial
23 of such applications, including the number of appli-
24 cations for each reason for denial.

1 “(5) If available, the dollar amount of assist-
2 ance provided pursuant to section 408 to applicants
3 who are—

4 “(A) property owners with a household an-
5 nual income—

6 “(i) above the national median house-
7 hold income; and

8 “(ii) below the national median house-
9 hold income; and

10 “(B) renters with a household annual in-
11 come—

12 “(i) above the national median house-
13 hold income; and

14 “(ii) below the national median house-
15 hold income.

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

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

21 “(b) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—
22 The Administrator shall ensure that none of the informa-
23 tion published under subsection (a) contains the personally
24 identifiable information of an applicant.”.

1 **SEC. 10. FEMA REPORTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
4 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to
5 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
6 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
7 Homeland Security and Government Affairs of the Senate
8 a report with respect to fiscal year 2016 through the most
9 recent fiscal year ending before the date of enactment of
10 this Act, and an annual report for any fiscal year begin-
11 ning on or after the date of enactment of this Act, describ-
12 ing—

13 (1) the average amount of individual assistance
14 and individual and household assistance provided
15 under section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
16 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
17 5121 et seq.) to, and the rate of denial of individual
18 assistance and individual and household assistance
19 provided under such section for—

20 (A) all individuals;

21 (B) households;

22 (C) individuals and households with a re-
23 ported annual income under 75 percent of the
24 national median household income;

1 (D) individuals with a reported annual in-
2 come over 125 percent of the national median
3 household income; and

4 (E) individuals with a reported annual in-
5 come between 75 percent and 125 percent of
6 the national median household income; and

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

10 (b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—In the report sub-
11 mitted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall de-
12 scribe the number of homeowners and the number of rent-
13 ers for each category of individuals and households de-
14 scribed in subparagraphs (C) through (E) of subsection
15 (a)(1).

16 **SEC. 11. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**
17 **SONNEL.**

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

21 “(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-
22 SONNEL.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for
24 which the President has authorized emergency pro-
25 tective measures for an area within the jurisdiction

1 of a State, tribal, or local government, the Adminis-
2 trator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local gov-
3 ernment for costs relating to sheltering emergency
4 response personnel, including individuals that are a
5 part of the same predisaster household as such per-
6 sonnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-con-
7 gregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief
8 executive of the tribal or local government deter-
9 mines that the damage or disruption to such area is
10 of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of
11 emergency protective measures within such area.

12 “(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
14 may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local gov-
15 ernment for the costs of sheltering emergency
16 response personnel under paragraph (1) for
17 such a period of time as the Administrator de-
18 termines reasonable based in the individual
19 characteristics of and impacts to the affected
20 area, including the extent of damage, the avail-
21 ability of alternative housing options, the avail-
22 ability of utilities, and disruptions to transpor-
23 tation infrastructure.

24 “(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-
25 MENT.—The period of reimbursement under

1 subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month
2 period beginning on the date on which the inci-
3 dent period ends.

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

6 “(A) employees or contracted employees
7 providing law enforcement, fire suppression,
8 rescue, emergency medical, emergency manage-
9 ment, or emergency communications services;
10 and

11 “(B) elected officials, except members of
12 Congress, responsible for the overseeing or di-
13 recting emergency response operations or recov-
14 ery activities.”.

15 **SEC. 12. IMPROVED RENTAL ASSISTANCE.**

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

21 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of
22 enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal
23 Emergency Management Agency shall conduct a study to
24 examine the unique challenges of renters when seeking
25 Federal disaster assistance and any disparities of assist-

1 ance provided to homeowners and renters pursuant to sec-
2 tion 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
3 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) and develop
4 a plan that addresses any identified challenges and dis-
5 parities, including any recommendations for legislative ac-
6 tion.

7 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
8 activities carried out under subsection (b), the Adminis-
9 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
10 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
12 Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and
13 recommendations required under subsection (b).

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

18 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESS-**
19 **MENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall conduct a study on the practices, in-
22 cluding the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal
23 Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting
24 preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of pro-
25 viding assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Staf-

1 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42.
2 U.S.C. 5174).

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The Comptroller General shall in-
4 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (1) A comparison of the process and procedures
7 used by the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
8 cy to complete preliminary damage assessments to
9 the process and procedures used by private insur-
10 ance companies following a major disaster.

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

13 (3) A comparison of damage estimates for
14 homes owned by individuals above the national me-
15 dian income to homes owned by individuals at or
16 below the national median income.

17 **SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.**

18 The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 8, and
19 11 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after
20 the date of enactment of this Act.

