

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 8416, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8416

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2022

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 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. Individual assistance post-disaster housing study.
- Sec. 9. Funding for online guides for post-disaster assistance.
- Sec. 10. Individual assistance dashboard.
- Sec. 11. FEMA reports.
- Sec. 12. Sheltering of emergency response personnel.
- Sec. 13. GAO report on preliminary damage assessments.
- Sec. 14. Applicability.

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

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

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC INFORMATION
9 SHARING SYSTEM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
11 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall estab-
12 lish and maintain a web-based interagency electronic
13 information sharing system, to be known as
14 “DisasterAssistance.gov”, to—

15 (A) facilitate the administration of the uni-
16 versal application for direct Federal disaster as-
17 sistance established under section 3;

18 (B) carry out the purposes of disaster as-
19 sistance programs swiftly, efficiently, equitably,

1 and in accordance with applicable laws, regula-
2 tions, and the privacy and data protections pro-
3 vided under this section; and

4 (C) support the detection, prevention, and
5 investigation of waste, fraud, abuse, inequitable
6 allocation of resources, or discrimination in the
7 administration of disaster assistance programs.

8 (2) AUTHORITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—In es-
9 tablishing and maintaining the electronic informa-
10 tion sharing system under this subsection, the Ad-
11 ministrator may collect and maintain disaster assist-
12 ance information received from a disaster assistance
13 agency, a block grant recipient, or an applicant for
14 a disaster assistance program and share such infor-
15 mation with any other disaster assistance agency or
16 block grant recipient using such electronic informa-
17 tion sharing system.

18 (b) DATA SECURITY.—The Administrator may facili-
19 tate the collection of disaster assistance information into
20 the electronic information sharing system established
21 under this section only after the following requirements
22 have been met:

23 (1) The Administrator certifies that the elec-
24 tronic information sharing system substantially com-
25 plies with the data security standards and best prac-

1 tices established pursuant to subchapter II of chap-
2 ter 35 of title 44, United States Code, and any other
3 applicable Federal information security policy.

4 (2) The Secretary of Homeland Security pub-
5 lishes a privacy impact assessment for the electronic
6 information sharing system, in accordance with sec-
7 tion 222 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
8 U.S.C. 142).

9 (3) The Administrator, after consulting with
10 disaster assistance agencies, publishes standard
11 rules of behavior for disaster assistance agencies,
12 block grant recipients, and personnel granted access
13 to disaster assistance information to protect such in-
14 formation from improper disclosure.

15 (c) COLLECTION AND SHARING OF ADDITIONAL
16 RECORDS AND INFORMATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may au-
18 thorize the collection, maintenance, sharing, and use
19 of additional disaster assistance information by pub-
20 lishing a notice on DisasterAssistance.gov that in-
21 cludes a detailed description of—

22 (A) the specific amendments to the collec-
23 tion, maintenance, and sharing of disaster as-
24 sistance information authorized;

1 (B) why each such amendment to how dis-
2 aster assistance information is collected, main-
3 tained, or shared is necessary to carry out the
4 purposes of a disaster assistance program and
5 consistent with the fair information practice
6 principles; and

7 (C) the disaster assistance agencies and
8 block grant recipients that will be granted ac-
9 cess to the additional information to carry out
10 the purposes of any disaster assistance pro-
11 gram.

12 (2) NOTICE AND PUBLICATION REQUIRE-
13 MENTS.—The publication of a notice under para-
14 graph (1) of a revision to the DisasterAssistance.gov
15 system of records prior to any new collection, or
16 uses, of Privacy Act categories of records, to carry
17 out the purposes of a disaster assistance program
18 with regard to a disaster declared by the President
19 under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford
20 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), shall be deemed to satisfy the
22 notice and publication requirements of section
23 552a(e)(4) of title 5, United States Code, for the en-
24 tire period of performance for any assistance pro-
25 vided under a disaster assistance program.

1 (3) WAIVER OF INFORMATION COLLECTION RE-
2 QUIREMENTS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Upon the declaration of
4 a major disaster or emergency pursuant to sec-
5 tions 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Dis-
6 aster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
7 U.S.C. 5170; 5191), the President may direct
8 the Administrator to waive the requirements of
9 subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United
10 States Code, with respect to voluntary collection
11 of information for the duration of such major
12 disaster or emergency.

13 (B) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon exercising the
14 waiver authority under subparagraph (A), the
15 Administrator shall—

16 (i) promptly post on a website of the
17 Federal Emergency Management Agency a
18 brief justification for such waiver, the an-
19 ticipated period of time such waiver will be
20 in effect, and the disaster assistance offices
21 within the Federal Emergency Manage-
22 ment Agency to which such waiver shall
23 apply; and

24 (ii) update the information relating to
25 such waiver, as applicable.

1 (4) GAO REVIEW OF WAIVER OF INFORMATION
2 COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
5 Comptroller General of the United States shall
6 issue a report describing the benefits and poten-
7 tial risks associated with authorizing the waiver
8 of the information collection requirements de-
9 scribed in paragraph (3).

10 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required
11 under subparagraph (A) shall include an assess-
12 ment of the extent to which a waiver described
13 in paragraph (3) would—

14 (i) affect the paperwork burden for in-
15 dividuals, small businesses, State, local and
16 tribal governments, and other persons;

17 (ii) affect the consistent application of
18 Federal laws relating to—

19 (I) privacy and confidentiality;

20 (II) security of information; and

21 (III) access to information; and

22 (iii) encourage or deter a State or
23 other entity from participating in the vol-
24 untary collection of information for the du-
25 ration of a major disaster or emergency.

1 (d) USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may per-
3 mit a Federal agency other than a disaster assist-
4 ance agency listed in subparagraphs (A) through
5 (D) of subsection (f)(3) to use the electronic infor-
6 mation sharing system established under this section
7 for the purpose of facilitating disaster-related assist-
8 ance if such agency enters into an agreement con-
9 taining the terms described in paragraph (2).

10 (2) AGENCY AGREEMENT.—An agreement en-
11 tered into under paragraph (1) shall contain the fol-
12 lowing terms:

13 (A) The Federal agency shall—

14 (i) collect, share, maintain, and use
15 disaster assistance information in compli-
16 ance with this section and any policies of
17 the Federal Emergency Management
18 Agency and any information protection and
19 use policies of such Federal agency; and

20 (ii) train any personnel granted access
21 to disaster assistance information on the
22 rules of behavior established by the Admin-
23 istrator under subsection (b)(3).

1 (B) In the event of any unauthorized dis-
2 closure of disaster assistance information, the
3 Federal agency shall—

4 (i) notify the Administrator within 24
5 hours of discovering any such unauthorized
6 disclosure;

7 (ii) cooperate fully with the Adminis-
8 trator in the investigation and remediation
9 of any such disclosure;

10 (iii) cooperate fully in the prosecution
11 of a person responsible for such disclosure;
12 and

13 (iv) assume the responsibility for any
14 compensation, civil liability, or other reme-
15 diation measures, whether awarded by a
16 judgment of a court or agreed as a com-
17 promise of any potential claims by or on
18 behalf of an applicant, including by obtain-
19 ing credit monitoring and remediation
20 services, for an improper disclosure that
21 is—

22 (I) caused, directly or indirectly,
23 by the acts or omissions of officers,
24 employees, and contractors of the
25 agency; or

1 (II) from any electronic system
2 of records that is created or main-
3 tained by the agency pursuant to sec-
4 tion 552a(e) of title 5, United States
5 Code.

6 (3) PUBLICATION OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—
7 The Administrator shall publish an agency agree-
8 ment entered into under this subsection on the same
9 website as the electronic information sharing system
10 established under this section.

11 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The sharing and use
12 of disaster assistance information that is subject to the
13 requirements of section 552a of title 5, United States
14 Code, by disaster assistance agencies and block grant re-
15 cipients shall not—

16 (1) be construed as a matching program for
17 purposes of section 552a(a)(8) of such title; or

18 (2) be subject to the remaining computer
19 matching provisions of section 552a of such title.

20 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) APPLICANT.—The term “applicant”
22 means—

23 (A) a person who applies for disaster as-
24 sistance from a disaster assistance program;
25 and

1 (B) a person on whose behalf a person de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) has applied for dis-
3 aster assistance.

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

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

11 (A) the Federal Emergency Management
12 Agency;

13 (B) the Department of Housing and
14 Urban Development;

15 (C) the Small Business Administration;

16 (D) the Department of Agriculture;

17 (E) any other Federal agency that the Ad-
18 ministrator permits to use the electronic infor-
19 mation sharing system under subsection (d).

20 (4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE INFORMATION.—The
21 term “disaster assistance information” includes any
22 personal, demographic, biographical, geographical,
23 financial information, or other information that a
24 disaster assistance agency or block grant recipient is
25 authorized to collect, maintain, share, or use to proc-

1 ess an application for disaster assistance or other-
2 wise carry out a disaster assistance program.

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

5 (A) any program that provides assistance
6 to individuals and households under title IV or
7 title V of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
8 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170
9 et seq.); and

10 (B) any other assistance program carried
11 out by a disaster assistance agency that pro-
12 vides assistance to an individual, household, or
13 organization related to a major disaster or
14 emergency declared under sections 401 or 501
15 of such Act, including—

16 (i) assistance for activities related to
17 disaster relief, long-term recovery, restora-
18 tion of infrastructure and housing, eco-
19 nomic revitalization, and mitigation that
20 are authorized under title I of the Housing
21 and Community Development Act of 1974
22 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

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

1 (iii) the distribution of food benefit al-
2 lotments as authorized under section 412
3 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
4 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.
5 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food Stamp
6 Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

7 **SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSIST-**
8 **ANCE.**

9 (a) UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.—The Administrator
10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall de-
11 velop and establish a universal application for direct Fed-
12 eral disaster assistance for individuals in areas impacted
13 by emergencies or disasters.

14 (b) CONSULTATION AND SUPPORT.—

15 (1) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sec-
16 tion, the Administrator shall consult with the fol-
17 lowing:

18 (A) The Director of the Office of Manage-
19 ment and Budget.

20 (B) The Administrator of the Small Busi-
21 ness Administration.

22 (C) The Secretary of Housing and Urban
23 Development.

24 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (2) SUPPORT.—The entities described in para-
2 graph (1) shall provide prompt support to the Ad-
3 ministrators.

4 (c) SURVEY.—The application established under sub-
5 section (a) shall include a voluntary survey to collect the
6 demographic data of an applicant.

7 (d) GAO ASSESSMENT ON IDENTITY THEFT AND
8 DISASTER FRAUD IN DISASTER ASSISTANCE PRO-
9 GRAMS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
11 States shall—

12 (1) conduct an assessment of improper and po-
13 tentially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
14 individuals made to victims of major disasters de-
15 clared in 2020 and 2021, including through identity
16 theft; and

17 (2) submit to the Committee on Transportation
18 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
19 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
20 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a report that de-
21 scribes—

22 (A) the prevalence of improper and poten-
23 tially fraudulent Federal disaster assistance for
24 individuals made to registrants who used invalid

1 information to apply for disaster assistance, in-
2 cluding through identity theft;

3 (B) the number of disaster victims whose
4 claims for Federal disaster assistance for indi-
5 viduals were denied due to another individual
6 filing a fraudulent application using their per-
7 sonal identifying information;

8 (C) the adequacy of existing fraud preven-
9 tion protocols in place on the Federal Emer-
10 gency Management Agency’s online application
11 for Federal disaster assistance for individuals;
12 and

13 (D) recommendations for improving the
14 identity verification protocols in place for Fed-
15 eral disaster assistance for individuals.

16 **SEC. 4. REPAIR AND REBUILDING.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(b)(1) of the Robert
18 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 5174(b)(1)) is amended—

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

22 (2) by striking “uninhabitable, as a result of
23 damage caused by a major disaster” and inserting
24 “damaged by a major disaster”.

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

4 (1) in subsection (c) by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(5) HAZARD MITIGATION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
8 provide financial assistance to individuals and
9 households, whose primary residence, utilities,
10 or residential infrastructure are damaged by a
11 major disaster, for cost-effective hazard mitiga-
12 tion measures that reduce threats to life and
13 property, or future damage to such residence,
14 utilities, or infrastructure in future disasters.

15 “(B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
16 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
17 under this paragraph shall not be required to
18 show that the assistance can be met through
19 other means, except insurance proceeds.”; and
20 (2) in subsection (h)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “, finan-
22 cial assistance for hazard mitigation under sub-
23 section (c)(5)(A),” after “subsection
24 (c)(1)(A)(i)”;

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

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

6 **SEC. 5. DIRECT ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 408(c) of the Robert T.
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 5174(c)) is further amended by striking para-
10 graph (2) and inserting the following:

11 “(2) REPAIRS.—

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

20 “(B) DIRECT ASSISTANCE FOR REPAIRS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The President
22 may provide direct assistance to individuals
23 and households who are unable to make
24 use of financial assistance under subpara-

1 graph (A) and when there is a lack of
2 available resources, for—

3 “(I) the repair of owner-occupied
4 private residences, utilities, and resi-
5 dential infrastructure (such as a pri-
6 vate access route) damaged by a
7 major disaster, or with respect to indi-
8 viduals with disabilities, rendered in-
9 accessible by a disaster; and

10 “(II) eligible hazard mitigation
11 measures that reduce the likelihood
12 and future damage to such residences,
13 utilities, and infrastructure.

14 “(ii) ELIGIBILITY.—A recipient of as-
15 sistance under this subparagraph shall not
16 be eligible for assistance under paragraph
17 (1), unless otherwise determined by the
18 Administrator.

19 “(C) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ASSIST-
20 ANCE.—A recipient of assistance provided
21 under this paragraph shall not be required to
22 show that the assistance can be met through
23 other means, except insurance proceeds.”.

24 (b) STATE- OR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT-AD-
25 MINISTERED ASSISTANCE AND OTHER NEEDS ASSIST-

1 ANCE.—Section 408(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
2 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174(f))
3 is amended—

4 (1) by striking “subsections (c)(1)(B), (c)(4),
5 and (e)” each place it appears and inserting “para-
6 graphs (1)(B), (2)(B), and (4) of subsection (c) and
7 subsection (e)”;

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

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

13 Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
14 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5174) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subsection (f)(3)—

17 (A) by striking subparagraph (F);

18 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (G),
19 (H), (I), and (J) as subparagraphs (F), (G),
20 (H), and (I), respectively; and

21 (C) in subparagraph (I), as so redesign-
22 nated—

23 (i) in clause (ii) by striking “Not later
24 than 2 years after the date of enactment

1 of this paragraph, the” and inserting
2 “The”; and

3 (ii) in clause (iii) by striking—

4 (I) “2 years after the date of en-
5 actment of this paragraph or” and

6 (II) “, whichever occurs sooner”;

7 and

8 (2) in subsection (g)—

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

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

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

17 **SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT COSTS.**

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

22 “(C) INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE.—A grantee
23 under section 408(f) may be reimbursed not
24 more than 12 percent of the total award
25 amount under each such section.

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

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

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

13 (2) by striking subparagraph (B).

14 **SEC. 8. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE POST-DISASTER HOUSING**
15 **STUDY.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
18 Federal Emergency Management Agency shall—

19 (1) conduct a study and develop a plan under
20 which the Agency will address the challenges associ-
21 ated with providing housing assistance to survivors
22 of major disasters or emergencies pursuant to the
23 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
24 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), including
25 circumstances in which—

1 (A) the presence of multiple families within
2 a single household; and

3 (B) the near loss of a community, with the
4 majority of homes destroyed in such commu-
5 nity, with discrete assessments on flood, wild-
6 fire, and earthquake events; and

7 (2) make recommendations for legislative
8 changes needed to address the challenges described
9 in paragraph (1).

10 (b) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study under
11 subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with other
12 relevant Federal agencies and stakeholders.

13 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion of the
14 activities carried out under subsection (a), the Adminis-
15 trator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
16 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
17 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
18 Affairs of the Senate a report containing the study and
19 recommendations required under subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 9. FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR POST-DISASTER**
21 **ASSISTANCE.**

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

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

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

4 “(8) post-disaster assistance.”.

5 (b) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
6 ANCE.—Section 201 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster
7 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5131)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 “(e) FUNDING FOR ONLINE GUIDES FOR ASSIST-
10 ANCE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
12 Federal Emergency Management Agency may enter
13 into a cooperative agreement to provide funding to
14 a State agency established under subsection (c) to
15 establish and operate a website to provide informa-
16 tion relating to post-disaster recovery funding and
17 resources to a community or an individual impacted
18 by a major disaster or emergency.

19 “(2) MANAGEMENT.—A website created under
20 this subsection shall be—

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

22 “(B) suitable for the residents of the State
23 of the State agency.

24 “(3) CONTENT.—The Administrator may enter
25 into a cooperative agreement to establish a website

1 under this subsection only to provide 1 or more of
2 the following:

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

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

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

17 “(4) COOPERATION.—A State agency that en-
18 ters into a cooperative agreement under this sub-
19 section shall cooperate with the Secretary of the In-
20 terior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of
21 Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator
22 of the Small Business Administration, and the Ad-
23 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management
24 Agency in developing a website under this sub-
25 section.

1 “(5) UPDATES.—A State agency that receives
2 funding to establish a website under this subsection
3 shall update the website not less than once every 6
4 months.”.

5 **SEC. 10. INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DASHBOARD.**

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

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

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after a
11 declaration by the President that a major disaster exists
12 under section 401, the Administrator of the Federal
13 Emergency Management Agency shall publish on a
14 website of the Agency an interactive web tool displaying
15 the following information with respect to such disaster:

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

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

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

1 “(4) A ranked list of the reasons for the denial
2 of such applications, including the number of appli-
3 cations for each reason for denial.

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

7 “(A) property owners with a household an-
8 nual income—

9 “(i) above the national median house-
10 hold income; and

11 “(ii) below the national median house-
12 hold income; and

13 “(B) renters with a household annual in-
14 come—

15 “(i) above the national median house-
16 hold income; and

17 “(ii) below the national median house-
18 hold income.

19 “(6) The estimated percentage of residential
20 property that was destroyed as a result of the major
21 disaster, if available.

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

1 **SEC. 11. FEMA REPORTS.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
4 Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on
5 Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Government Affairs of the Senate a report with re-
8 spect to fiscal year 2016 through the most recent fiscal
9 year ending before the date of enactment of this Act, and
10 an annual report for any fiscal year beginning on or after
11 the date of enactment of this Act, describing—

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

19 (A) all individuals;

20 (B) households;

21 (C) individuals and households with an an-
22 nual income under 75 percent of the national
23 median household income;

24 (D) individuals with an annual income over
25 125 percent of the national median household
26 income; and

1 (E) individuals with an annual income be-
2 tween 75 percent and 125 percent of the na-
3 tional median household income; and

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

7 **SEC. 12. SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-**
8 **SONNEL.**

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

12 “(e) SHELTERING OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE PER-
13 SONNEL.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major disaster for
15 which the President has authorized emergency pro-
16 tective measures for an area within the jurisdiction
17 of a State, tribal, or local government, the Adminis-
18 trator may reimburse the State, tribal, or local gov-
19 ernment for costs relating to sheltering emergency
20 response personnel, including individuals that are a
21 part of the same predisaster household as such per-
22 sonnel, in exclusive-use congregate or non-con-
23 gregate settings if the Governor of the State or chief
24 executive of the tribal or local government deter-
25 mines that the damage or disruption to such area is

1 of such a magnitude as to disrupt the provision of
2 emergency protective measures within such area.

3 “(2) LIMITATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
5 may only reimburse a State, tribal, or local gov-
6 ernment for the costs of sheltering emergency
7 response personnel under paragraph (1) for
8 such a period of time as the Administrator de-
9 termines reasonable based in the individual
10 characteristics of and impacts to the affected
11 area, including the extent of damage, the avail-
12 ability of alternative housing options, the avail-
13 ability of utilities, and disruptions to transpor-
14 tation infrastructure.

15 “(B) MAXIMUM DURATION OF REIMBURSE-
16 MENT.—The period of reimbursement under
17 subparagraph (A) may not exceed the 6-month
18 period beginning on the date on which the inci-
19 dent period ends.

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

22 “(A) employees or contracted employees
23 providing law enforcement, fire suppression,
24 rescue, emergency medical, emergency manage-

1 ment, or emergency communications services;
2 and

3 “(B) elected officials, except members of
4 Congress, responsible for the overseeing or di-
5 recting emergency response operations or recov-
6 ery activities.”.

7 **SEC. 13. GAO REPORT ON PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESS-**
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the
10 United States shall conduct a study on the practices, in-
11 cluding the accuracy of such practices, that the Federal
12 Emergency Management Agency uses when conducting
13 preliminary damage assessments for the purposes of pro-
14 viding assistance under section 408 of the Robert T. Staf-
15 ford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42.
16 U.S.C. 5174).

17 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The Comptroller General shall in-
18 clude in the study conducted under subsection (a) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (1) A comparison of the process and procedures
21 used by the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
22 cy to complete preliminary damage assessments to
23 the process and procedures used by private insur-
24 ance companies following a major disaster.

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

3 (3) A comparison of damage estimates for
4 homes owned by individuals above the national me-
5 dian income to homes owned by individuals at or
6 below the national median income.

7 **SEC. 14. APPLICABILITY.**

8 The amendments made by sections 4, 5, 7, 9, and
9 12 shall only apply to amounts appropriated on or after
10 the date of enactment of this Act.