

10 Years Later. . . .

Supporting Effective, Humane Recovery from a
Catastrophe

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For Katrina Plenary

Natural Hazards Workshop

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Introduction

Setting the Stage

Setting the Stage

- The most important actors in the recovery of survivors are the survivors themselves.

- Terms of analysis:
 - Survivor 'agency'

Survivor Agency

- **Agency** refers to the actions taken by people who have the power to act as they determine.
 - Agency can be considered at all different levels of social organization.
 - Agency permits the survivor to make their own contribution to their own recovery.
 - Agency is required for a community to achieve resilience.

- Terms of analysis:
 - Survivor 'agency'
 - Structural violence

Structural Violence

- *“Structural violence is one way of describing social arrangements that put individuals and populations **in harm’s way**... they are **embedded in the political and economic organization of our social world**; they conspire to constrain agency.”*

- *Adam Burtle, UN Citizen Ambassador*
- *Filmmaker, humanist*

Structural Violence

- Structural violence prevents the survivor from leading the effort toward their own recovery.
- “When the actual is unavoidable, then violence is not present.” (Galtung 1969) “(W)hen harm is avoidable, violence is present.” (Soron, 2007)

Right to experience recovery assistance
that is delivered professionally,
successfully and timely.

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Long, Unpredictable Delays Found in Louisiana 'The Road Home' Grants to Homeowners



FOR RELEASE

Tuesday

May 27, 2008

Louisiana homeowners who sought federally-funded grants through "The Road Home" program for homes damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have had to wait more than eight months on average to receive grants, according to a [study](#) issued today by the RAND Corporation.

Only about half of eligible applicants who applied for compensation in December 2006 had received grants one year later.

The study suggests the Louisiana Recovery Authority, which administers the program, take three steps to expedite grant-making for the remaining eligible applications: focus on applications that have been "stuck," in some cases for hundreds of days; establish time goals for applications remaining in the later segments of the grant-making process; and, encourage coordinated efforts by companies and agencies participating in the program to remove sources of delay.

"The grant-making process was slow, in large part, because it was not designed to be fast," said [Rick Eden](#), lead author of the study and a senior research analyst at RAND, a nonprofit research organization. "The process could handle a large number of applications, but it was complex, with many potential sources of long delays. It was not designed to ensure that each application would be handled in a timely manner."

One example of a bottleneck occurs late in The Road Home program when funds are requested from the U.S. Department of Housing and

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Rand Report

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Examining post-Katrina Road Home program: 'It's more than the money. It's the hoops we had to jump through to do it'



The (New Orleans) Advocate July 20, 2015

Right to an evacuation that prevents deaths and assists in recovery



Right to return



Right to health care

FEATURE MAY 16, 2011 ISSUE

Why Was New Orleans's Charity Hospital Allowed to Die?

Seeking government funds for a massive \$1.2 billion new complex, powerful forces blocked Charity's reopening after Hurricane Katrina.

By Roberta Brandes Gratz

APRIL 27, 2011



Before Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, Charity Hospital was the pride of New Orleans. A 1930s Art Deco-style icon built with WPA funds, Charity was one of the oldest continually operating public hospitals in the country and was regarded as one of the most vital and successful. "Charity was one of the best teaching hospitals in the country, where students from Tulane and LSU did their training," says Dr. James Moises, a former Charity emergency room physician, noting that it served 100,000 patients a year before the storm.



LSU Interim Hospital



“The outdated and dingy accommodations at the Health Center’s interim location.” *The(New Orleans) Advocate* June 18, 2015.



Won't open until Aug. 1, 2015



Planning without thinking



Increased Flood Risk and Lower Income



Areas with **increased flood risk** tend to contain **concentrations of people with low median household incomes**.

Policy Action

- Require the question be answered:
 - Is there harm done to survivors' agency by the recovery programs they are provided?
 - Has the survivor assistance program caused the survivors to lose their agency, especially for an extended period of time?
- And if so, **is this harm avoidable?**

Proactive Policy Change

- Require recovery program to answer: How are you increasing the agency of the survivors whom you are responsible to help?

Research to Support Policy Change

- Determine the characteristics of survivors who have agency. What should recovery programs aim to enhance?
- Determine how government and non profit recovery programs as they are defined and implemented can make the recovery of survivor agency be a paramount goal.



Bill Quigley

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Law Professor, Loyola University New Orleans, CCR Associate
Legal Director

New Orleans Katrina Pain Index at 10: Who Was Left Behind

Posted: 07/20/2015 8:45 am EDT | Updated: 07/20/2015 9:59 am EDT



👍 382
👍 134
👍 30
👍 6
👍 20

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When [Hurricane Katrina](#) hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005, the nation saw tens of thousands of people left behind in New Orleans. Ten years later, it looks like the same people in New Orleans have been left behind again. The population of New