



September 22, 2022

The Honorable Deanne Criswell  
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20472-0001

Administrator Criswell,

On behalf of Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico and many other stakeholders on the ground, we request urgent action from FEMA to amend the Major Disaster Declaration approved for Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona (DR-4671). The consequences of this disaster have been catastrophic for jurisdictions left outside the scope of the Individual Assistance coverage. Municipalities such as Loíza, Guánica, Lajas, and Cabo Rojo, among others, are particularly vulnerable due to damages caused by floods and winds.

The racial and impoverished status of these communities, together with the fragility of their structures five years after Hurricane María, compel a coherent national response that enables an equitable and just recovery. Although Major Disaster Declarations can be amended to include new jurisdictions, the message communicated at a moment when people still lack safe housing and shelter, power, water, and stable communications is devastating. The immediate amendment of this declaration to include municipalities like Loíza and those in the Southwestern part of the Island is urgent. We call upon FEMA to take rapid action in response to this request.

Sincerely,

Ariadna M. Godreau Aubert, Esq.  
Executive Director

Diane Yentel  
President & CEO  
National Low Income Housing Coalition

María de L. Vaello Calderón, Esq.  
Community Lawyer

Verónica González Rodríguez, Esq.  
Community Lawyer