



**October 4, 2022**

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

*via email*

Re: Hurricane Fiona FEMA Response

Administrator Criswell,

Since 2017, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico has provided legal representation to survivors and engaged in advocacy efforts to seek equitable access to funding and just recovery for Puerto Ricans in the context of multiple disasters. We are writing to request a meeting to discuss FEMA response in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona.

Sadly, we are currently seeing some of the same practices on the ground that left many impoverished people without access to much-needed FEMA aid after Hurricane Maria. Some of these practices include FEMA personnel requiring deeds or notarized documents to prove home ownership.

These practices distance themselves from the new, more flexible approach that the agency announced when it expanded assistance for disaster survivors in September 2021. The experience in Puerto Rico and other jurisdictions with a high percent of people of color evidence that FEMA denials based on unverified ownership become huge barriers for long term recovery. We would hope to engage with you and work towards a more equitable solution. Please let us know when you are available to meet with us at your earliest convenience.

Cordially,

s/Ariadna M. Godreau-Aubert, Esq.  
Executive Director

s/Verónica González Rodríguez, Esq.  
Community Lawyer

cc: Carlos A. Camacho Marcano

