

## PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# I-DIEM Advocating for Survivors Marginalized by the Response to Hurricane Ida

Diversity and Inclusion Nonprofit Recommending Equitable Response and Recovery Strategies

**ATLANTA – SEPT 2, 2021** – The [Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management](http://www.i-diem.org) (I-DIEM), a nonprofit focused on addressing equity in disasters and emergency management, has mobilized a team stationed in Louisiana and is currently working with partner organizations in areas impacted by Hurricane Ida. I-DIEM will be teaming with its network of partner organizations to support cultural competency training, disaster equity in response and recovery, and coordination with community based organizational partners. “I-DIEM believes equity must be prioritized, no matter the size of the disaster,” said I-DIEM Co-founder and CEO Chauncia Willis. “Disaster equity is imperative because it leads to shorter response and recovery times for marginalized groups like lower-income residents in rural communities,” said Willis.

Hurricane Ida was the third major hurricane to impact Louisiana within the last 12 months when it made landfall early Sunday as an intense category 4 storm near Grand Isle, Louisiana. “Generations of families in Louisiana have dealt with several major disasters over the last few decades including Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Baton Rouge Floods of 2016, and Hurricane Laura in 2020. “Historically, marginalized groups suffer the most disproportionate impact, and it is heartbreaking to see this section of our country impacted by another disaster,” said Willis.

I-DIEM’s research indicates marginalized groups are disproportionately impacted in times of disaster including facing limitations to accessible transportation when evacuations are ordered, lack of resources to stay in hotels during and after a storm and having accessibility to technology to register for disaster assistance. “We understand the value of prioritizing equity in all phases of the disaster cycle so that lower-income residents, rural communities and other historically marginalized groups receive equitable treatment,” said Willis. “It is critical that we work boldly with great intention to interrupt that cycle.”

### **About the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management**

The Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management is a 501(c)3, global non-profit organization established to facilitate change by integrating equity into all aspects of emergency management. Our focus is on humanity, and our vision support the empowerment of marginalized communities within all phases of the disaster management cycle.

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