

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I-DIEM Continues Monitoring Hurricane Ida Impacts on Marginalized Communities in Louisiana

Airbnb.org helps provide essential support

ATLANTA – October 20, 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, continues monitoring the impacts of Hurricane Ida on marginalized communities in Louisiana. The Atlanta-based nonprofit received support from [Airbnb.org](https://www.airbnb.org) to champion the needs of disaster survivors, especially those in marginalized communities impacted by Hurricane Ida. Airbnb.org is an independent and publicly supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on unlocking the power of sharing space, resources, and support in times of need.

Immediately following Ida's landfall on August 29th, I-DIEM deployed an **Equity Response Team** to monitor and identify needs for communities of color, lower-income communities, and the elderly. "These groups face direct challenges from disasters," said I-DIEM Co-founder and CEO, Chauncia Willis. Airbnb.org provided temporary housing for I-DIEM's Equity Response Team as they engaged with survivors across some of the hardest impacted communities. "Our success on the ground in the weeks following Hurricane Ida would not have been possible without the temporary housing support provided by Airbnb.org," said Willis.

Some of the greatest impacts from Ida were in extreme southern Louisiana, about 30 miles southwest of New Orleans, where the eyewall of the hurricane caused catastrophic damage. Thousands were displaced and forced to find long term shelter while many others, especially the indigenous population, needed shelter as many desired to stay with their damaged homes. "These tribal groups are connected to their communities, they live off the land and water, this is the only home they know, and most will not leave their property," said Willis.

Airbnb.org also recently awarded I-DIEM a grant to help support its ongoing efforts in Louisiana to ensure a fair and equitable response for the hardest hit communities. To support tribal groups, I-DIEM utilized community and partner input to identify key resources to provide generators to tribal members in remote areas still without power weeks after the storm.

"Airbnb.org's generous donation is providing necessary resources for I-DIEM teams to access, firsthand, underserved communities in southern Louisiana continuously facing impacts from Ida," said Willis. "These groups are facing challenges from multiple disasters due to climate change and unfortunately lag behind predominantly white communities in recovering from these events."

Airbnb.org's community has been helping provide temporary accommodations to survivors in numerous disasters since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. "We want to help communities recover from Ida by leveraging the host community's generosity through no cost or discounted short-term stays, and we're honored to have a chance to partner with I-DIEM," said Sadie Bynum, Airbnb.org's Global Emergency Response Manager.

Airbnb.org and I-DIEM are working together to identify opportunities to support underserved residents and communities in this region of Louisiana. "We know there will be more disasters from the ongoing impacts of the

climate crisis we are facing today,” said Willis. “These groups need support in building back stronger and smarter so they can increase the chance of surviving the next disaster.”

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.

About Airbnb.org

Airbnb.org is a nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating temporary stays for people in times of crisis around the world. Airbnb.org operates independently and leverages Airbnb, Inc.’s technology, services, and other resources at no charge to carry out Airbnb.org’s charitable purpose. The inspiration for Airbnb.org began in 2012 with a single host named Shell who opened up her home to people impacted by Hurricane Sandy. This sparked a movement and marked the beginning of a program that allows Hosts on Airbnb to provide stays for people in times of need. Since then, the program has evolved to focus on emergency response and to help provide stays to evacuees, relief workers, refugees, asylum seekers, and most recently, frontline workers fighting the spread of COVID-19. Since then, Hosts have offered to open up their homes and helped provide accommodations to 75,000 people in times of need. Airbnb.org is a separate and independent entity from Airbnb, Inc. Airbnb, Inc. does not charge service fees for Airbnb.org supported stays on its platform.

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