

# Housing Counseling and Legal Services Program



The Housing Counseling and Legal Services program (HCS/LS) will provide a wide range of services to homeowners, renters, and landlords impacted by Hurricane Ida.

The goal of the program is to provide supportive services to help storm survivors access disaster recovery programs, understand their housing rights and responsibilities, and secure safe permanent housing.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is using Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund the program.

To carry out this program, DCA will enter into an agreement with Navicore Solutions as the prime entity for community-based services. Through Navicore Solutions, other community-based organizations will be funded to ensure access to in-person services in all counties impacted by Ida. At this time, those organizations include Legal Services of New Jersey, Somerset County Community Action, Affordable Housing Alliance (Sandy only), and United Community Corporation.

# Housing Counseling and Legal Services Program

## HOUSING COUNSELING SERVICES

Housing counseling services will be available to households impacted by Hurricane Ida and Superstorm Sandy with or without a referral from DCA. Agencies will provide support in the following areas:

- **Storm Recovery Program Application Assistance:** Housing Counseling Agencies will provide assistance to applicants for completing paperwork and provide the required information to apply for recovery programs. Assistance will be available in person, by phone, or virtually. (Ida only)
- **Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Support:** Applicants of the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance program will receive support for applying for the program and finding appropriate rental housing. They will receive continued support over the duration of the program to find permanent housing before program assistance ends. (Ida only)
- **Education on Fair Housing and Rental Affordability Requirements:** Housing Counseling Agencies will provide information about fair housing to property owners and storm recovery program applicants as needed.
- **Connect Households to Programs and Services:** If a household needs assistance for other non-housing resources, such as food, utility, or childcare assistance, Housing Counseling Agencies will connect them to additional community resources.

All housing counseling services that are delivered will be provided at no cost to the household.



### Eligibility Requirements for Housing Counseling (Ida only)

To receive housing counseling, a household must meet certain eligibility requirements.

#### The Household Must:

- Self-certify that they lived in one of the following disaster-declared counties at the time of Hurricane Ida: Bergen, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union, and Warren.
- Self-certify that they were impacted by Ida.

## LEGAL SERVICES

Legal services will be available to households impacted by Hurricane Ida through Navicore Solutions to assist them in overcoming any barriers to achieving permanent housing. Assistance is available for such areas as:

- Insurance claims
- Clearing property titles
- Eviction and foreclosure proceedings
- Landlord and tenant issues
- Issues with inherited property
- Other legal services, as needed, to help households complete their recovery

To assist a household in resolving legal issues, the organization may provide advice, limited representation, or full representation. All legal services will be provided at no cost to the household.



### Eligibility Requirements to Receive Legal Services (Ida only)

To receive legal services, a household must meet certain eligibility requirements.

#### The Household Must:

- Be an active participant in an Ida-funded program
- Be referred by Navicore Solutions

## LEARN MORE

For more information about the Housing Counseling and Legal Services Program, visit [www.nj.gov/idaprograms](http://www.nj.gov/idaprograms).



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