



Dear Human Services and Emergency Management community:

This past week is one that will linger in our hearts and minds for a long time. The devastation of property was heartbreaking, and while many of us experienced our own flood damages or loss, we came together with a common goal – to help those impacted immediately, and to continue that recovery process as long as it’s necessary. Supporting others through service is what we do everyday, but during this time, we coordinated our efforts and worked together with real precision – as one team.

Each day during the hurricane and flood event, I witnessed the commitment and dedication of volunteer organizations, faith-based groups, local, county and state employees working tirelessly – and side by side – to help others. Working together as one team.

Under the leadership of Governor Christie, thousands of people were evacuated, sheltered and fed until they could return home, or find friends or family with whom to stay. Crisis counseling was provided to many; individuals with special needs were accommodated with necessary medical equipment and specialized dietary requirements. Our state’s first responders – police, fire, EMS – were so essential. Their selfless, professional support helped us coordinate evacuations, transportation, sheltering and care for thousands of displaced people. In addition, New Jersey’s hospitals, nursing homes and developmental centers made space available, when needed, and supplied equipment for the medically fragile.

I want to thank you all. Your devoted work has set New Jersey on course for recovery. And while our work is far from over, know that your commitment to the recovery effort and service to others continues to be necessary and is sincerely appreciated.

Regards,

Jennifer Velez
Commissioner