

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 12, 2018

Mr. Paul Ford
Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 1
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Ms. Kelly Joe Rivas
Branch Director
Individual Assistance (IA) – DR 4339
FEMA Region 1
99 High Street
Boston, MA 02110


Dear Acting Regional Administrator Ford and Branch Director Rivas:

We write to support the State of Connecticut's request to immediately extend the Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) Program for the households in our state that were recently deemed ineligible for further assistance. Absent an extension, many families will lose their housing on January 14, with little notice in the midst of a holiday weekend. As the state's request notes, Connecticut currently has 848 households registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency living in Connecticut, and 193 households are living in hotels through the TSA Program. Of those 193 households, 45 were recently deemed ineligible for TSA assistance, all of whom face the prospect of losing their housing in a matter of hours. The emotional and logistical burden created by the approaching termination of TSA assistance would be immense. Compounding this issue, we have also heard that return expenses for families receiving TSA assistance may be limited.

Connecticut's state government, along with its federal, local, and non-profit partners, have worked effectively to assist and accommodate the individuals and families who have come to the state as a direct result of hurricanes Irma and Maria. Many of our offices have diligently helped these families in need navigate the intricate disaster assistance programs, and the complexity of the case management associated with housing these families requires significant time to complete. In order to keep these 45 families housed and to assist all recovery partners on the ground in Connecticut, we again respectfully request that you immediately extend TSA assistance for at least an additional two weeks, and consider extending the assistance for the duration of the school year.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,




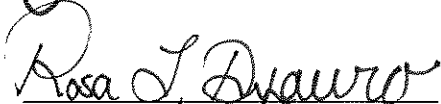
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