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Comment Submitted by Anonymous

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Collection of information about race (demographics) is out of line with the Agency goals and purpose. FEMA is required to render assistance to all people regardless of race. If assistance was denied based on race, then civil rights would have been violated. But it would need to be demonstrated that the denial was because of race and not that procedures failed to be followed. If race is not recorded or taken into account in the process, then there would be no privilege realized by any group. That is how it should be. Whether someone successfully receives assistance from FEMA does not require information about race. Nor is it appropriate. Demographics information will have zero utility in aiding the Agency with the performance of its mission. It will complicate the process and run the risk of becoming slower for the agency to provide aide. When race is taken into account, then it becomes racist. It makes no difference what race you are when you have been affected by a natural disaster. And the requirements for applying for assistance should be the same for everyone regardless of race. There cannot be two sets of standards or your program will inevitably be biased. The data will also provide no useful statistics if the purpose for collecting it is to determine whether discrimination exists in the program. Failure to receive aid has many reasons for its occurrence. To include not applying for it. If you assume that all or even most cases for aid are being denied because of discrimination, you would be wrong. Servicing the public should be free of race and including this information is adding racism to the process.

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