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Docket (/docket/FEMA-2022-0006) / Document (FEMA-2022-0006-0001) (/document/FEMA-2022-0006-0001) / Comment

## PUBLIC SUBMISSION

### Comment Submitted by American Society of Adaptation Professionals

Posted by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** on Mar 28, 2022

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#### Comment

Please see attached PDF. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) proposed collection of demographic data to improve the implementation and performance of disaster assistance programs. These comments were compiled and refined by the members of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP). ASAP supports and connects climate adaptation professionals to advance innovation in the field of practice. With over 900 individual adaptation professionals - and 35 organizational members collectively employing over 100,000 people - ASAP's members offer expertise covering all facets of this rapidly evolving field including risk management, community-based resilience planning and implementation, economic revitalization, and disaster preparedness. ASAP members bring to their work the highest professional and ethical standards.

ASAP strongly supports FEMA collecting demographic information from those who apply for benefits. As climate change leads to increasingly worse disasters, FEMA benefits are critical to help individuals and communities rebuild to withstand stronger storms and floods or to move out of harm's way. People and communities who are both highly exposed to climate risks because of the places they live and have fewer resources, capacity, safety nets, or political power to respond to those risks because of widespread discrimination include Black people, Indigeonous Peoples, people of color, people with low incomes and from low income backgrounds as well as other individuals and communities such as immigrants, those at-risk of displacement, old and young people, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, incarcerated people, renters, people with disabilities, and chronically ill or hospitalized people. Unless FEMA understands applicants' demographics, it will not be possible to ensure that FEMA benefits are equitably distributed and helping those who need it most.

Tracking this data is crucial to ensuring that FEMA is delivering on its mandate, especially since there's ample data showing that FEMA has been falling short on ensuring that its benefits are equitably distributed (see FEMA National Advisory Council Report to the FEMA Administrator FEMA NAC report - [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_nac-report\\_11-2020.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nac-report_11-2020.pdf))

To fix the problem, FEMA needs a much more precise understanding of who is receiving benefits. If FEMA does not gain this understanding, they will risk worsening structural inequities that cause specific people and communities to face disproportionate climate impacts and have lower adaptive capacity.

Attachments **1**



ASAP Comment on FEMA request to collect demographic information.docx



Download ([https://downloads.regulations.gov/FEMA-2022-0006-0020/attachment\\_1.pdf](https://downloads.regulations.gov/FEMA-2022-0006-0020/attachment_1.pdf))

#### Comment ID

FEMA-2022-0006-0020



#### Tracking Number

l1a-ryc5-yomr

Comment Details

Received Date

Mar 28, 2022



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