Nonprofit Disaster Readiness in Greater Miami

As Greater Miami braces for an anticipated active disaster season, preparedness becomes paramount. Not only for weathering extreme storms but also for mitigating the various hazards that threaten our entire community.

In early 2024, The Miami Foundation conducted a comprehensive survey among nonprofits throughout Greater Miami. The survey specifically targeted those that focus on disaster readiness as part of their services. This initiative aimed to assess their preparedness in supporting the community during potential disasters. In partnership with a critical entity in supporting the community during disasters, they are flexible, responsive, and are usually the first to respond to hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities.

The survey was designed to highlight challenges, inspire action toward building community resilience. By pinpointing gaps and opportunities in our emergency response system, our goal is to facilitate collaboration among nonprofit organizations, authorities, ultimately making Miami safer and more resilient for everyone.

Through this snapshot, we share the data highlights of our nonprofit resilience ecosystem, their operations, and their needs for a stronger disaster response in this season.

Miami’s nonprofits are uniquely positioned to serve as “first responders” in their communities.

The largest capacity constraints for nonprofits to provide disaster services:

- **Water:** 82%
- **Sheltering:** 45%
- **Volunteers:** 39%
- **Funding:** 8%
- **Storage & Space:** 7%

Most nonprofits only provide part-time, seasonal disaster relief and therefore must rally for more resources during a crisis.

Percent of budget allocated to disaster services:
- Emergency preparedness: 23%
- Response: 55%
- Rehabilitation: 18%
- Recovery: 34%

Top five disaster related services provided by nonprofits:

- 51% of organizations report being ill-prepared for extreme heat
- 34% collaborate with non-profits for heat emergency response
- 19% implement urban greening initiatives (e.g., planting trees, creating shade structures)
- 12% offer heat relief shelters or cooling centers

58% of organizations provide heat-related services:
- 51% distribute cooling supplies (e.g., fans, water bottles)
- 51% provide heat safety equipment & resources

The largest capacity constraints for nonprofits to provide disaster services:

- **Storage & Space:** 7%
- **Volunteers:** 13%
- **Funding:** 13%
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Learn More, Act More

Looking to take action and support Miami’s resilience during disaster season? Here’s how you can contribute:

- **Join The Network**
  If you are part of a nonprofit that is engaged in disaster preparedness, relief, recovery, or resilience initiatives in Miami-Dade County, join the Miami Strong Disaster Resilience Network.

- **Participate in Training Programs**
  Enhance your preparedness skills by participating in the following programs:
  - Miami-Dade County CERT training program
  - The CLEO Institute’s Excessive Heat Trainings

- **Contribute to the Miami-Dade County Hurricane Guide**
  Access the Miami-Dade County Hurricane Guide to stay informed about emergency resources and preparedness measures for hurricane season.

- **Make a Donation**
  Want to be a part of building a more resilient community? Contribute to the Miami Disaster Resilience Fund. Your support will help us build a stronger and more equitable Greater Miami.

- **Stay Ready**
  Access the Miami-Dade County Hurricane Guide to stay informed about emergency resources and preparedness measures for hurricane season.

Questions? Please reach out to: DisasterRecovery@miamifoundation.org

Extreme heat poses a significant threat to our community, but it also presents an opportunity for growth for our nonprofits.