



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

**National Association of Regional Councils**

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October 12, 2022

Ms. Shalanda Young  
Director  
The White House  
Office of Management and Budget  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Director Young:

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). NARC is the national voice for regions and advocates for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC members include regional councils, councils of governments (COGs), regional planning and development agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and other regional organizations.

NARC requests that all disaster-related funding requests to support communities impacted by Fiona and Ian include funding for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). We request that EDA be funded at no less than \$3 billion for the multi-state and territory economic recovery efforts, a figure consistent with the agency's demonstrated capability to administer large recovery efforts effectively and innovatively.

As you know, EDA has a long history of helping communities recover from natural disasters, and for that reason is included in the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). Despite significant funding to help the nation's economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency does not receive enough annual funding to support critical recovery work without a supplemental disaster appropriation. Without this supplemental funding, EDA may be unable to fulfill their role in the federal government's recovery plan, leading to a slower economic recovery for disaster impacted regions. Without robust EDA support included in any forthcoming disaster supplemental appropriations, impacted communities may not have access to the economic recovery expertise and support they need.

We share your goal of ensuring that communities that have been devastated by the recent hurricanes have the tools they need to recover and rebuild more resilient and equitable economies. We believe this can best be achieved with a federal response that is inclusive of EDA's decades of leadership on economic distress at the table. We look forward to hearing from you and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie Wollack  
Executive Director  
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