

Inter-chapter Disaster Relief – Mark Kateli

INTRO:

The disaster relief fund is something I had asked back in November 2018 to the CoC in the wake of Hurricane Michael. Originally, the fund was conceptualized as a general outreach to help get affected communities with essential staples (canned goods, clothing, tarp, etc) due to the nature of Michael's severity. However, after the recommendation of some FNPS members, I refined the idea down to chapter supplies specifically. With the organizations that work on a much larger scale such as Home Depot, GoodWill, Walmart, etc. working with FEMA and the Red Cross on core basics for the public, it makes sense for FNPS to focus on our organization's functions as this is where other disaster relief systems will not qualify to help. This type of disaster relief towards FNPS-related activities is also more appropriate.

DISCLAIMER:

This is a draft. Chapters that wish to commit to disaster relief in other ways are welcome to add their own *creative insight*. Chapters that wish to have *concrete guidelines* have the assurance that their recommendations will help form the final fund plan. At present, all chapters are requested to show **if** they support the idea and **what** (monetary, or otherwise) they are willing to commit to. I believe in the flexibility of an open platform to see **how** individual chapters wish to help. For Cuplet Fern, for instance, it is easiest to simply cut a check as I suspect will be for other chapters as well. However, that may not be the case for every chapter. The bottom line is that it needs to be a *commitment* by an interested chapter. The stronger the web of support, the faster the fund system will grow over time, the higher the chances that a system can at least help get an affected chapter's feet back on the ground.

SUPPLIES:

Supplies that an affected chapter uses to conduct core functions- programs and field trips- qualify. Chapter supplies help affected members to continue with basic functions.

Programs and field trips related items include, but not limited to:

- Projector
- Screen
- Laptop
- Printer
- Venue Rent
- Stationary

MISSION RELATED ITEMS:

Supplies that help an affected chapter continue their outreaches include, but not limited to:

- Tent
- Portable table and chairs
- Linen
- Printwork (banners and flyers)
- Plants

FUND DEVELOPMENT:

For monetary donations, each chapter should report how much they want to donate. Ideally, it should be the CoC (Council of Chapters). In the interim, Cuplet Fern can manage the registry. Individual chapter funds are kept within their respective treasury- they are just earmarked for disaster relief. For example, Cuplet Fern has earmarked \$100

and will slowly add more money to it year after year. The money set aside will be reported annually after each chapter's budget is finalized to the CoC or Cuplet Fern chapter. Example: a simple, visual table as follows is presently sufficient:

	2019	2020
Cuplet Fern	\$100	\$75
Citrus		\$50
Total Funds Earmarked		\$225

For goods and service donations, a separate plan needs to evolve that addresses the following questions:

- The specific good(s)
 - Details about technological compatibility (Windows vs. Mac, how old is the equipment, plugins and extensions)
 - How the item will be delivered to the affected chapter (such as plants, tent, stationary, projector, laptop)
- How supportive services will be addressed
 - If they are administrative services (such as bookkeeping), will it be in person or remotely?
 - If they are operational services, how will they be coordinated and guaranteed to the affected chapter?

FUND SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT:

As the fund develops, so can our dream and vision for the fund. The more money in it, the more specific the parameters of the fund will be. At present, a few hundred dollars does *not* warrant fine print- small dollar figures are palliative and generally do *not* solve disaster problems outright. However, in an effort to dream bigger, a *flexible* (open to adjustment) plan based on how much money amassed is described below:

- Less than \$500: Funds are palliative and will not fix affected chapters. Chapters should tell the CoC what they want to use funds for and funds should be allotted to them.
- \$500- \$1K: If the interchapter total fund gets to this range, the CoC should start developing their own guidelines on what requests qualify. Funds are sufficient to make a few expensive purchases for affected chapters if needed.
- \$1K- \$2K The CoC should start developing a supply priority list when total funds accrue to this level. For example, if the chapter does not have a place anymore to hold their meetings, then expense of a venue rental takes priority over other expenses such as a laptop, projector, or a screen (chapter can still get together, present, and discuss without these items albeit not perfectly). The CoC will have to take a look at what is truly a core need versus a peripheral, supplemental one.

- \$2K- \$5K CoC should develop a robust response system comprising of mobilizing a unit of FNPS members with pre-determined functions in the aftermath of a disaster. Funds are large enough to assist the response unit's monetary needs if needed.
- \$5K- \$15K In addition to previous requirements, the CoC should develop relief quotas for affected chapters. The fund is large enough to address multiple disasters within a short period of time.

CONCLUSION:

Currently to my knowledge, there is no FNPS system in place that specifically addresses disaster relief for affected chapters in specific terms. As funds are managed by each chapter and not at the State-level, the responsibility will fall on participating chapters. It is our hope that all chapters can participate to the level they are comfortable so any can benefit should a disaster strike.

Regards,

Mark Kateli – Cuplet Fern Chapter