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## **LLIS.gov Resource Compilation For Hurricane Sandy**

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*The LLIS.gov team has compiled various resources to help support the efforts and initiatives in preparedness, response, and recovery during Hurricane Sandy. These resources are topic-specific and have been analyzed and used for deployment purposes to help provide support during the hurricane.*

### **Direct Assistance Replacement Assistance Consideration ( DARAC)**

#### **GENERAL RESOURCES**

DARAC is the software used to manage, coordinate, and document direct housing for FEMA applicants.

- **Open Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General. Federal Emergency Management Agency Faces Challenges in Modernizing Information Technology**  
[http://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets%5CMgmt%5COIG\\_11-69\\_Apr11.pdf](http://www.oig.dhs.gov/assets%5CMgmt%5COIG_11-69_Apr11.pdf)

In 2007, FEMA enhanced the NEMIS Individual Assistance module as follows:

- NEMIS registration intake functions were put online using a web-based capability called the Disaster Assistance Improvement Program. This program provides a single, online access point for individuals requiring assistance, and also provides online registration and status-tracking capabilities.
- The Direct Assistance Replacement Assistance Consideration system replaced the FEMA Response and Recovery Applicant Tracking System in 2007, resulting in a consolidation of 50 Microsoft Access databases. The Direct Assistance system can automatically populate data, such as the applicant's address, once key information is entered in the system, resulting in a reduction of handling time per call.
- The Document Management and Records Tracking System replaced the ViewStar system to read and process incoming mail from applicants. The implementation of the document management system increased security as well as the speed of data and image retrieval, resulting in saved time.

- **Open Source: Department of Homeland Security. Annual Performance Report Fiscal Years 2011-2013**  
[https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/mgmt/cfo\\_apr\\_fy2011\\_appa.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/mgmt/cfo_apr_fy2011_appa.pdf)

*Goal 5.4: Rapidly Recover from a Catastrophic Event.* Federal Emergency Management Agency Individuals affected by a disaster can apply to FEMA for disaster assistance online through [disasterassistance.gov](http://disasterassistance.gov) or via tele-registration. Initial applicant data is recorded in the National Emergency Management Information System (NEMIS), in accordance with Title 44 CFR 206.113. Basic eligibility, as determined through the Registration Intake process, may trigger an on-site housing inspection to verify damages. After the inspection data is loaded into NEMIS, the qualified applicant's eligibility for housing assistance is determined. The FEMA National Processing Service Centers are the central repository for data collection; eligibility data is transmitted to the FEMA Finance Center for disbursement of financial rental assistance, repair assistance, and/or replacement assistance. Data for direct assistance for temporary emergency housing is collected by FEMA staff and captured in the Direct Assistance Replacement Assistance Consideration (DARAC) portal in NEMIS.

- **Open Source: NEMIS. Where are we...How we got here...Where we're going**  
[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/conferences/iaconference/2010/BO5\\_NEMIS\\_508\\_.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/conferences/iaconference/2010/BO5_NEMIS_508_.pdf)

This presentation explains what DARAC is and how it is used. DARAC provides a single, consistent, uniform tool for processing Direct Assistance as well as concise information required for Regions, Headquarters, and the field to help determine budgets and resource management. This software allows staff access to the system online through the FEMA Intranet to assure a timely and cost effective response to applicant needs.

- **Open Source: Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Operations Center, June 1, 2011 Tornadoes/Severe Thunderstorms, Situation Report #34, 06/28/11, 1500 Hours** (no link)

This document provides an example of how DARAC was used during. The database listed available housing units to be allocated to eligible renters or homeowners as well as individuals needing housing assistance.

### **DISCLAIMER**

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