



ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

October 12, 2021

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19

Lutheran Social Service Agencies, Synods
and ELCA Church Members Together

Region 1 Lutheran Disaster Preparedness & Response

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Luther Community Services Northwest continues to be a leader in Refugee re-settlement and social services for those in need. This year they celebrate 100 years of "Health, Justice and Hope." Much love LCSNW!! ([View their impact report here.](#))

LCSNW is currently ramping up to help resettle Afghan immigrants. [LCSNW President and CEO David Duea writes,](#)

"We know that more than 50,000 people are going through this process on American military bases. Once it is completed, refugees will begin arriving in our service areas. We anticipate some arrivals in early October. Our staff is using this time to line up safe and affordable housing options, employment opportunities, medical care, translators, transportation and more. We are hiring more team members to come alongside these individuals and families upon their arrival."

For further information on LCSNW's work with Afghan refugees and how you might help, [view this video](#) of expert panelists and find your local LCSNW office at www.LCSNW.org.

Dave Brauer-Rieke, Region 1 LDR Disaster Preparedness Project Manager.

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Who's Who in Disaster?

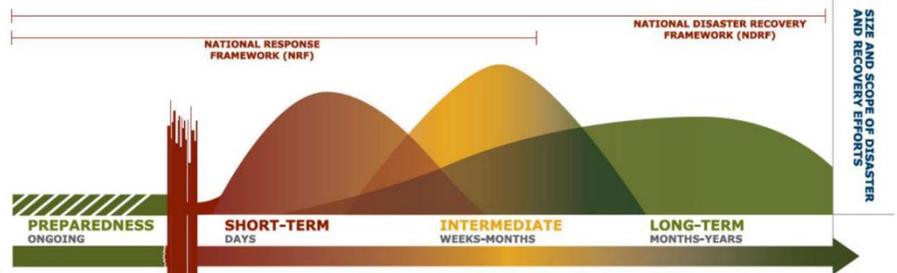
Last month in this "Who's Who is Disasters Relief?" section we talked about VOADs "Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster." This month we want to look at LTRGs, "Long Term Recovery Groups."

Making a Difference!

Some of the most rewarding work in disaster recovery is found through LTRGs – Long Term Recovery Groups.

Long Term Recovery Groups, like you and your community, are locally focused. They need volunteers to connect with other agencies, specialized legal and organizational skill sets, hands on and behind the scenes people who really care.

If your community has been hit by disaster, whether it be fire, earthquake, floods or heat – and if you know there is an ongoing need – it is likely a Long Term Recovery Group has been formed, or is in the process of formation. They need you. Ask how you can help.



Long Term Recovery Groups are vital in major disaster scenarios because it takes time to heal and. It often takes years. Short-term response to disasters offer focus on the daily needs of survivors such as food, clothing and temporary shelter. Over time, though, people need to be re-established in permanent housing. They need employment, perhaps ongoing financial assistance and spiritual and emotional counsel.

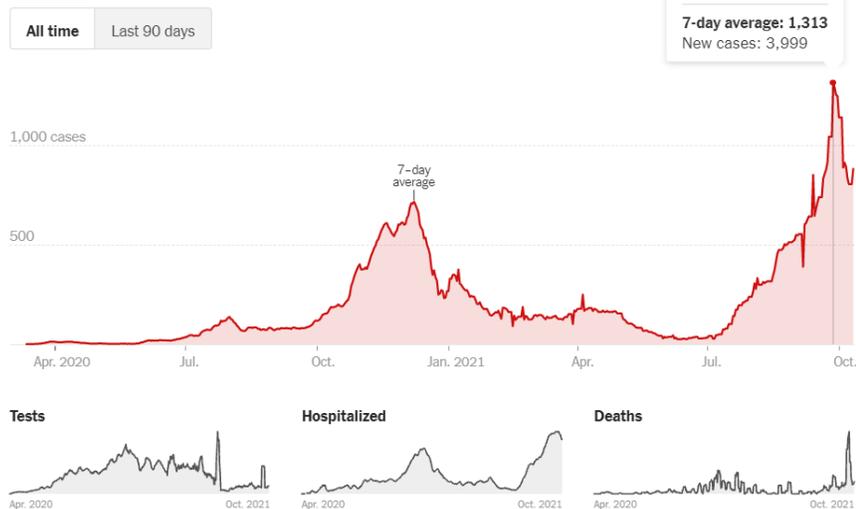
Long Term Recovery Groups are often county specific. They may form as non-profits so that they can hire or oversee disaster case managers. Case managers are needed to guide families in accessing FEMA funding or other kinds of support. LTRGs work closely with government agencies, county support systems, local businesses and volunteer agencies. They are a helpful and necessary intermediate between "big government" and on the ground local agencies. Your church, or leaders in you congregation, might well invest their time and expertise with a county LTRG. This is where the rubber hits the road!

Within an LTRG there will soon be formed an "Unmet needs table." Whatever the system, people fall through the cracks. Unmet needs tables work closely with churches, NGOs and representatives from agencies like Lutheran Disaster Response to see that no one gets left behind in a disaster.

After disaster needs are met, an LTRG may mature into a COAD. More on this next month!

Alaska Overwhelmed by COVID

New reported cases



ANCHORAGE, Alaska (KTUU) - As Alaska's current surge of COVID-19 continues and resources start to run short in hospitals, the state has activated a crisis standards of care document to help guide decision making for 20 hospitals and health care facilities.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services announced on Saturday that it had activated a document called Patient Care Strategies for Scarce Resource Situations. [The document](#) contains the state's decision-making framework, which "includes a progression of conventional, contingency and crisis standards of care identifying strategies to be used depending on the situation and types of resource shortfalls being experienced" according to Saturday's press release... [Alaska's News Source, October 2, 2021](#)

Alaska's health system has been overwhelmed by COVID patients and doctors are now having to make difficult decisions in rationing health care. While some states can "share the load" with neighboring health care systems Alaska, due to its relative isolation, is unable to do so. Yes, their rates are high, but in addition they are remote. Please keep our neighbors there in your prayers.

[Hospitalization and death rates have also peaked in the other four states of ELCA Region 1.](#) This pandemic is clearly not over! Thank you all for your efforts to encourage congregations and individuals in conscientious responses to this ongoing trial.



Get ready to rock n' roll with at the October 21, 2021 Region 1 Disaster Preparedness Network Gathering. **YOU** are invited! [Register now.](#)

[The Network](#) gathers the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM PT (5:00 PM AT and 7:00 PM MT.) Gatherings are 90 minutes long and jam packed with information, interaction and good old-fashioned fun. [Take a peak at last month's gathering if you wish.](#)



Our October 21 Gathering will focus on Earthquake Preparedness.

Test Question: *How many of our 5 Region 1 states are in the top 10 most earthquake prone states in the nation?*



What state is this?

(If you said Alaska [REGISTER NOW.](#) Guess you don't know Montana.)

Jesus and the Power to Live Free



21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2021 [Mark 10:35-45](#)

“Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant.” If

only we could send the river back into its banks, or the fire away from the homes of those we love. If only we sat with Jesus, one on his right hand and

the other on the left, compassionate peddlers of power. Have you experienced a disaster? It is mutual care offered in the midst of loss that speaks power and brings healing.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost October 24, 2021 [Mark 10:46-52](#) *“Then Jesus said to*

him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Our greatest desire as survivors of disaster is often return. We wish to see

again, have our house back, return to a world in which we felt secure. The miracle of gaining what was once lost never simply takes one back, though. It's takes us forward because we have been touched by love.

Reformation Day October 31, 2021 [John](#)

[8:31-36](#) *“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* The truth is that humanity must



grow into itself. We are now a global force. The future, the climate, wholeness is ours to shape. We must mature into the likeness of Christ thinking and act with one heart and soul.

Then, and only then, will we and this planet we call “home” be free.



All Saints Day, November 7, 2021 [John 11:32-33](#) *“Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”* Taking away the

stone does not give life. It simply reveals death. Once we face truth and the responsibility we have been given then, like Jesus, we will have power to call life out once again. The saints await our voice.

From Montana Bishop Laurie Jungling

In 2016, the Montana Synod Assembly passed a [resolution memorializing](#) the Church-wide Assembly “to explicitly and clearly repudiate the European Christian-derived ‘doctrine of discovery,’ its inherent racism, and its continuing impact upon tribal governments and individual tribal members to this day, and to acknowledge and repent of its complicity in the evils of racism and colonialism in the Americas.” ...

Following the memorial requests of the Montana Synod and many other synods, the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA in 2016 passed a [resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery](#) as well as the mistaken Christian theology that undergirded it for so long across the Christian church and allowed injustices and sins to be perpetuated in God’s name...

Today, in obedience to the mandate of that resolution as well as in obedience to the God who calls us to confess and repent, the ELCA released [“A Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America” to American Indian and Alaska Native People.](#)”

Thank you to the Montana Synod for their leadership in this matter. The full text of Bp. Jungling’s comments can be found in the October 11, 2021 Montana Synod Announcements mailing.

Why Racial Equity Counts



“If you go by the federal holiday calendar, today is Columbus Day. But, more fittingly, today is being recognized by people, cities, and states as Indigenous Peoples’ Day, a day to honor and celebrate Indigenous communities across the U.S. and minimize the violence and harm that Columbus Day represents.

The genocide and displacement of Indigenous communities worldwide because of colonization have caused atrocious historical harm that persists through the present day. This discrimination is why the community of 370 million Indigenous peoples globally “make up 15% of the world’s extreme poor” and suffer ‘higher rates of landlessness, malnutrition and internal displacement than other groups” ([Amnesty International](#)). A 2017 study shows that over half of Indigenous communities living on tribal lands or other majority-Native areas in the U.S. say they have experienced racial or ethnic discrimination when interacting with police (55%) and applying for jobs (54%) ([NPR](#)). COVID-19 data on Native Americans has been called “a national disgrace” by leading researchers ([Science](#)) . . .

This campaign is a small step towards justice. But know that it is not new, even if it’s new to you. Activists have pushed for an alternative to Columbus Day since the 1970s. Berkeley, CA, was the first city in the U.S. to adopt this holiday in the early 90s ([Time](#)). Important to note: South Dakota started calling referring to Columbus Day as “Native American Day” in 1989 ([Washington Post](#)).

As of now, 14 states— Alabama, **Alaska**, Hawai’i, **Idaho**, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, **Oregon**, South Dakota, Vermont, Wisconsin, and D.C – over 130 cities, and growing numbers of school districts celebrate Indigenous Peoples’ Day in place of or in addition to Columbus Day ([Smithsonian Magazine](#)). You can dive into more about the process and any opposition for various locations in this [NYTimes article](#) . . .”

[Written by Nicole Cardoza for Anti-Racism Daily, October 11, 2021](#)

Application Period Opens for Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program

This program of the USDA is designed to Provide Relief to Small Producers, Processors, Distributors and Farmers Markets Impacted by COVID-19. **You may be able to use this program with business associates or community members, so please read on.**



This program will assist small businesses in certain commodity areas, including specialty crop producers, shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, and apiculture; specialty crop, meat, and other processors; distributors; and farmers markets.

You may not be used to thinking in terms of grants, but part of disaster response and recovery work is aligning people with just such resources. Thank you!



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a [Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) for the new Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program and encourages eligible entities to apply now for funds. Applications must be submitted electronically through the grant portal at <https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, November 22, 2021. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants, which are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The PRS Grant program will assist small businesses in certain commodity areas, including specialty crop producers, shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, and apiculture; specialty crop, meat, and other processors; distributors; and farmers markets. Small businesses and nonprofits in these industries can apply for a grant to cover COVID-related expenses such as workplace safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE), retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety, shifting to online sales platforms, transportation, worker housing, and medical costs. The minimum funding request is \$1,500 and the maximum funding request is \$20,000.

The RFA and the PRS Grant Portal provide more details about eligibility for the grant. Eligible entities are required to obtain a free DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) before applying for this program. USDA has created a custom PRS DUNS number portal at <https://support.dnb.com/?CUST=PandemicResponse>.

Application resources, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), tip sheets in English and Spanish on applying for a DUNS Number, videos on “How to Apply” and more, are available on the [PRS Grant Portal](#).

For more information, you can also reach out to the PRS help desk, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. ET at (301) 238-5550 or usda.ams.prs@grantsolutions.gov.

Check your eligibility, obtain a DUNS number, and learn more about the application process at the [PRS Grant Portal](#).

[View the Stakeholder Toolkit](#)