



# COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

1825 K Street, NW · Suite 411 · Washington, DC 20006 · 202.223.2532 · Fax 202.223.2538 · [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** David Elliot, [delliot@chn.org](mailto:delliot@chn.org)

202-223-2532 (office) 202-607-7036 (cell)

## **CHN JOINS CALL FOR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF DISASTER AID ON NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION**

***Puerto Rico, other territories need relief; so do farmers and others  
throughout the Midwest and South***

*As groups come together for the first day of a national week of action Wednesday, Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director of the Coalition on Human Needs, called for immediate passage of a comprehensive disaster relief bill:*

“Across the nation, in states and in territories, communities are suffering from natural disasters: tornados, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, wildfires and more. Farmers and farm communities need help now. So do the people of Puerto Rico and the other territories of Guam, Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

“Puerto Rico needs more funding for nutrition assistance after 1.35 million residents experienced cuts in Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits in March – the need is dire and urgent. American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands need nutrition aid as well. Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa need additional Medicaid funds that were included in the House-passed version of the disaster relief bill, but not in the Senate version. All three areas experienced widespread destruction last year – Guam and the Northern Marianas from typhoons, and American Samoa from a cyclone.

“Disaster aid is urgently needed, and the Senate must act now to join the House in approving funding. The failure to act is leaving disaster-stricken people in Puerto Rico and other territories without enough food, health care, and the capacity to rebuild, and hurting farmers and others in need across the Midwest and South. Any disaster relief package passed by Congress must include funding to help the most distressed and impacted communities in states **and** territories rebuild housing, businesses and public infrastructure. No community should have to fend for itself – in America, we stand with people in all our states and territories struggling to recover from a disaster.”

*The Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. For more information please visit [www.chn.org](http://www.chn.org).*