Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands Evacuees in New York
February 5th, 2018

In September 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria left a trail of destruction through the Caribbean. The U.S. territories of Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) sustained significant damage, causing many to evacuate to the continental United States (CONUS). Significant infrastructure issues persist; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that full power restoration will occur by May 2018.

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(1) Government Updates

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- On 10/30/17, FEMA announced that Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) is available to those displaced from Puerto Rico.
  - “Transitional Sheltering Assistance allows eligible applicants to shelter in a hotel or motel, for a limited period of time, as a bridge to intermediate and longer-term housing.” It does not include travel back to Puerto Rico.
  - 37 hotels across the state are housing 232 applicants in 250 rooms.
  - The program is slated to sunset on March 20th but may be extended if FEMA determines a need.

New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)

- Puerto Rico & USVI Helpline operated by New York State: (888) 364-4901
- Florida has a host-state agreement with Puerto Rico which enables certain types of service provision and cost-sharing. Puerto Rico requested a similar agreement from New York State which is no longer under consideration.
(2) New York State

- New York State has 2,229 evacuee households according to FEMA Individual Assistance registrations.
  - Second-highest concentration of evacuees in the country.
  - The number of non-registered households in the state is unclear.
- Most registered evacuees were impacted by Hurricane Maria (>90%), and the majority of evacuees are from Puerto Rico (>85%).
- As of January 4th, 2018, there are at least 2,050 displaced students from Puerto Rico in New York State public schools. This figure does not include charter or private school students.
  - Rochester City Schools (512), New York City (411), and Buffalo City Schools (374) have the highest concentration of Puerto Rican evacuee students.
**NYS Map:** Monroe County has the highest concentration of evacuees outside of NYC.

**NYC Map:** Bronx has the highest concentration of evacuees, while Staten Island has the fewest.
New York City

- New York City has 1,329 FEMA-registered households, 60% of total New York State population
- The City of New York opened a Hurricane Evacuee Services Center (HESC) on 10/19/17.
  - New York City estimates there are 17,000 evacuees in New York State.
  - Many evacuees have unmet needs including temporary and permanent housing, food, clothing, public benefits advocacy, and employment services.
  - New York City Emergency Management has announced plans to begin demobilization of the Center to a “borough-based” service-provision model.
- New York Disaster Interfaith Services opened a marketplace for evacuee clothing and household goods on November 27th. The Marketplace was originally located at the HESC but moved to the Church of the Holy Agony as the HESC was demobilized by NYC Emergency Management. Key partners include Burlington Coat Factory, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, Delivering Good, Macy’s, New York City Council Speaker’s Office, New York City Office of the Mayor, Salvation Army Greater New York Division.

**New York Disaster Interfaith Services**

- Brooklyn 24%
- Manhattan 20%
- Staten Island 3%
- Bronx 37%
- Queens 16%

**FEMA Individual Assistance Registrants (Households)**

Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands Evacuees

1/31/2018
(3) Rochester
- In November 2017, Ibero-American Action League convened dozens of local agencies to offer resources for evacuees. As of 1/29/2018, Ibero reports that approximately 1,800 evacuees have registered with them.
- Ibero continues to open a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) every Thursday.
- They report housing and security deposits, health insurance, winter clothing, employment, and household goods as the most prominent needs.

(4) Interactive Maps
New York State Map (six layers, PR & USVI, 11/30, 11/24, 11/20) (pin is a zip code where at least one evacuee is located)
New York State Heat Map (10/30) (shows concentration of evacuees)
New York City Heat Map (11/30)
New York State (minus NYC) Heat Map (11/30)
Long Island Heat Map (11/30)
Puerto Rico and USVI Heat Map (10/30) (shows concentration of pre-disaster ZIP codes)