



## Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands Evacuees in New York

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

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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, especially involving the island's fragile electricity infrastructure. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2.5% of utility customers are without power. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, accidental damage to one transmission line caused an island-wide blackout that persisted for hours.

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## (1) Government Updates

### Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

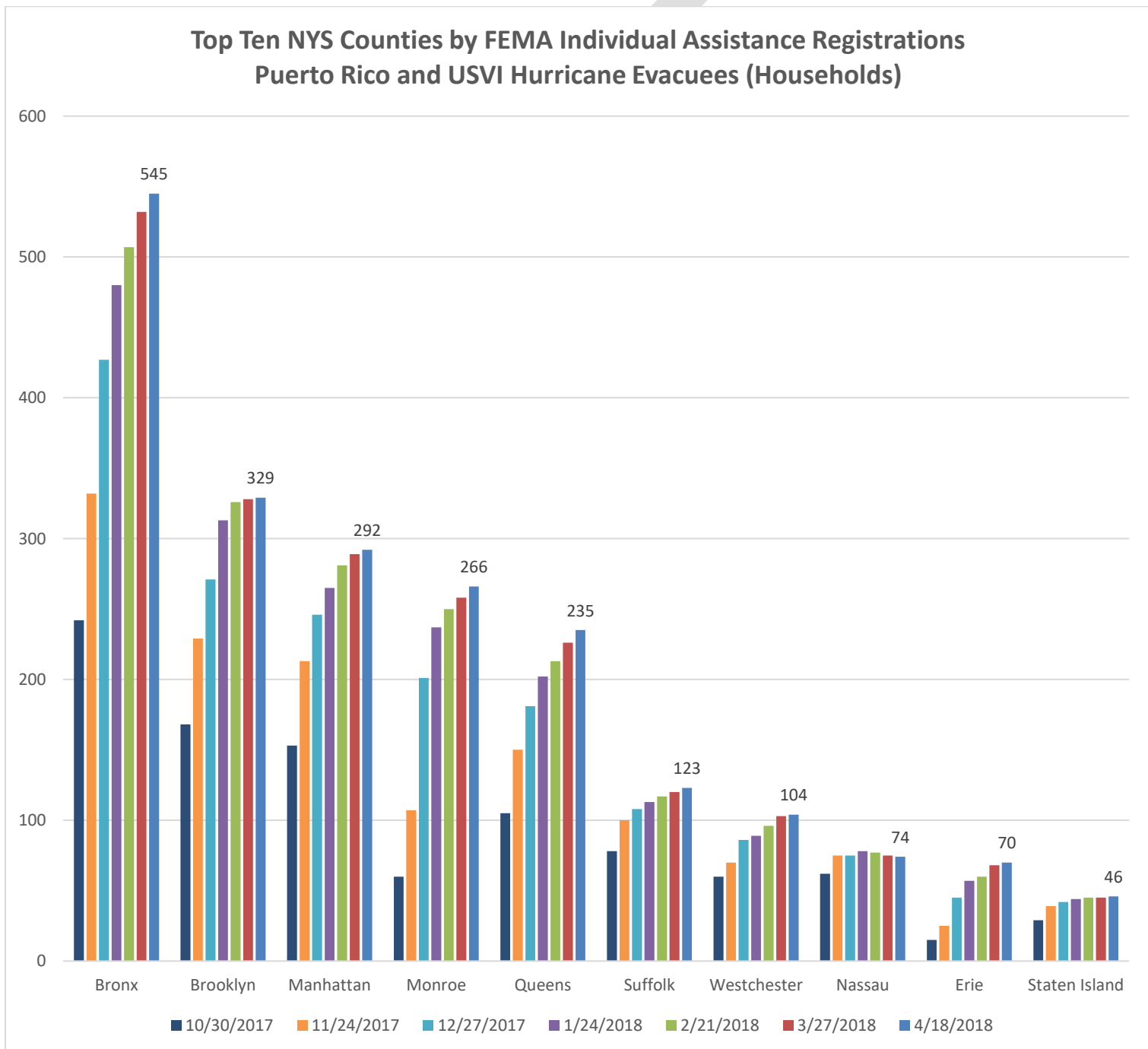
- On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017, FEMA announced that [Transitional Sheltering Assistance \(TSA\) is available to those displaced from Puerto Rico.](#)
  - “Transitional Sheltering Assistance allows eligible applicants to shelter in a hotel or motel, for a limited period of time, as a bridge to intermediate and longer-term housing.” The program does not fund return travel to Puerto Rico.
  - As of April 18<sup>th</sup>, housing 172 households in 186 rooms across 31 hotels in 21 New York State counties.
  - All households in TSA have been extended until May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College released a [report](#) on housing assistance.

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

- 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 was never approved by New York Governor Cuomo.

## (2) New York State

- New York State has 2,421 evacuee households according to FEMA Individual Assistance registration data.
  - New York State has the second-highest concentration of evacuees in the country.
  - The number of non-registered households in the state is unclear. Analyses by the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College have [estimated 11,217 Puerto Rican evacuees](#) in New York State.
- Most registered evacuees were impacted by Hurricane Maria. A large majority of evacuees are from Puerto Rico.
- As of March 21<sup>st</sup>, there are at least 2,494 displaced students from Puerto Rico in New York State public schools.
  - The top three cities with the most displaced students from Puerto Rico are Rochester (572), Buffalo (490), and New York City (464). These figures do not include charter or private school students.





**New York City**

- New York City has 1,447 FEMA-registered households, 60% of total New York State population.
- The City of New York opened a Hurricane Evacuee Services Center (HESC) on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
  - New York City has estimated there are 17,000 evacuees in New York State.
  - Many evacuees reported unmet needs including temporary and permanent housing, food, clothing, public benefits advocacy, and employment services.
  - The Multi-Agency Resource Center was demobilized on February 8<sup>th</sup> per New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) directive. Services are now available on a smaller basis at borough job centers.
  - NYCVOAD/NYVOAD members that provided services at the HESC: American Red Cross of Greater New York, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, City Harvest, New York Cares, New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS), The Salvation Army Greater New York Division.
    - NYDIS has distributed \$131,193.75 in direct assistance to 1,285 households through its 2017 NYC Hurricane Evacuee Unmet Needs Roundtable (UNR) to date.
    - 1,903 households requested follow-up communication/case management services.
- New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) opened The Evacuee Marketplace for clothing and household goods distribution on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The Marketplace was originally located at the HESC but moved to the Church of the Holy Agony as the HESC was demobilized by NYCEM. Key partners include Adventist Community Services, American Red Cross Greater New York Region, Burlington Coat Factory, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, Delivering Good, Good 360, Housing Works, Macy’s, New York City Council Speaker’s Office, NYCEM, New York City Office of the Mayor, Pampered Chef, and The Salvation Army Greater New York Division.
  - As of April 19<sup>th</sup>, NYDIS has served 1,069 households and 3,176 individuals at its Evacuee Marketplace.

| <b>NYDIS Evacuee Marketplace</b> |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Type of Distribution</b>      | <b>Quantity Distributed</b> |
| Coats                            | 2,562                       |
| Clothing                         | 25,152                      |
| Household goods                  | 3,489                       |
| Clothing gift cards              | 857                         |

### (3) Rochester

- In November 2017, [Ibero-American Action League](#) opened a Multi-Agency Resource Center.
- As of April 2018, Ibero reported that over 3,000 individuals have visited the MARC.
- They report housing and security deposits, health insurance, clothing, employment, and household goods as the most prominent needs.
- Ibero's staff plans to provide NYVOAD with detailed service statistics as soon as they can be compiled. This report will be updated and posted to NYVOAD's website upon receipt of this information.

### (4) Interactive Maps

[New York State Map \(six layers, PR & USVI, 11/30, 11/24, 11/20/2017\)](#)

(a pin is a zip code where at least one evacuee is located)

[New York State Heat Map \(10/30/2017\)](#)

(shows concentration of evacuees)

[New York City Heat Map \(11/30/2017\)](#)

[New York State \(minus NYC\) Heat Map \(11/30/2017\)](#)

[Long Island Heat Map \(11/30/2017\)](#)

[Rochester Heat Map \(04/18/2018\)](#)

[Puerto Rico and USVI Heat Map \(10/30/2017\)](#)

(shows concentration of pre-disaster ZIP codes)