



October 28, 2022

Honorable Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator Rubio,

The Disaster Recovery Coalition of America (DRCA) applauds the introduction of the ***Simplifying Grants Act (S.4799)***. DRCA ([www.thedrca.org](http://www.thedrca.org)) is a 501©6 non-profit, trade association organized in 2008 to advance the common interests of its members, to help advise and lead disaster recovery contractors as an industry, and to educate government decision makers and public opinion leaders on the industry's role in helping constituents prepare for, respond to, recover from and mitigate the damage from costly catastrophes.

Our organization brings together leaders from the private and public sector through industry forums, events and roundtables with key stakeholders that help advance leadership, innovation, mitigation, and housing best practices across the emergency management system to improve America's recovery from natural and man-made disasters. DRCA's leadership team includes top emergency management experts in the country, and our members represent a significant amount of the overall disaster recovery work that takes place across America.


We believe the Simplifying Grants Act, which makes it easier for small local governments to apply for, receive, and manage federal grants, would lift the tremendous challenges faced by hundreds of communities who desperately need federal assistance to improve infrastructure, support public safety, and contribute to economic development and provide much-needed relief to survivors trying to put their lives back together post-disaster. In the aftermath of disasters, small communities don't have reserves or resources for long term recovery and often face situations that require creative short-term and long-term financing to fund their efforts.

This bill will go a long way to effectively give survivors and their community leaders the tools to cope with post-disaster challenges and is a critical step toward long-term recovery. Planning for federal grant applications and an easy process to receive and manage these funds should occur at all levels of government before a disaster strikes.

It is our organization's goal to work with emergency managers and our member recovery leaders to assist you and your colleagues to advance this legislation. We recognize each community's unique characteristics, resources, cultural considerations and demographics that impact its ability to recover and restore public services. This Act reinforces the importance of developing plans to better meet the diverse and complex needs of small communities.

Thank you for your assistance in addressing this important issue. We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues as we work together for those impacted by disaster devastation in all arenas.

Kind Regards,

  
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