

SOMOS



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SOMOS

PRO-PUERTO RICO DINNER

After six weeks post Hurricane Maria, there continues to be sustained massive devastation in Puerto Rico. Instead of sponsoring our November conference in Puerto Rico, we decided on hosting a SOMOS Pro Puerto Rico Dinner as a humanitarian effort to support relief/rebuild efforts.

Changing the SOMOS conference to a solidarity event in New York was unavoidable. Our host hotel, the Caribe Hilton Hotel informed us that they are closed and will not be re-opening until January 2018. Attempts to secure alternate lodging accommodations were unsuccessful and given current conditions on the Island where we are not confident of being able to provide a safe and coordinated effort, we made a decision to cancel this year's conference.

To give you some perspective, a SOMOS board member that has been in Puerto Rico throughout these past three weeks, explained it like this, "The situation is truly disheartening down here in San Juan and actually very tragic 30 minutes beyond the metropolitan area. Thousands of homes are beyond repair and many businesses will never reopen. It will take 15 years for our island to recover from the storm..."

As of this Sunday, October 29, 2017, 75 % of people still don't have electricity and only 74% of people have running water. These stats and others can be tracked on <http://status.pr/Home>. Needless to say that this is a disaster that will take many years to recover from.

SOMOS is partnering with Para La Naturaleza, an organization that we have worked with for several years in helping to raise the awareness of environmental conditions and injustice in Puerto Rico. Their website is www.paranaturaleza.org and as you will see, they are working with neighboring communities in an effort to rebuild them.

We are asking that you donate your registration fee so that we can make a monetary contribution to Para La Naturaleza to support their efforts. Additionally it is our hope that we will be able to send a small group of 5 to 10 people down to Puerto Rico to present the group with our check and to assist them for a short time. All contributions that we receive through retained registration fees will be put towards those efforts.

We thank you for your support.

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Hurricane Maria: Immediate Impact and Response

RESEARCH BRIEF

By: *Edwin Meléndez and Kathya Severino*

Issued October 2017
Centro RB2017-02

Hurricane Maria has been the worst storm to hit Puerto Rico since San Felipe Segundo in 1928. On September 20, 2017, Maria struck Puerto Rico as a category 4 storm, with sustained winds blowing at 145 mph and peaking at 155 mph as it made landfall. The northwest trajectory of the storm assured that the entire island would be affected.

Heavy rainfall occurred throughout the territory, peaking at 37.9 in (962.7 mm) in Caguas, according to the National Weather Service. Puerto Rico experienced widespread flooding with waist-deep water levels in some areas. Storm surge and flash flooding trapped thousands of residents and caused at least 51 deaths, but ongoing investigations suggest that this might be a very low estimate. Strong winds destroyed homes and caused massive devastation. It is undeniable that Hurricane Maria completely devastated the Puerto Rican archipelago.



SIX WEEKS AND COUNTING

One month later, island authorities report that 51 people have died as a direct result of the hurricane. The official estimate exclude hundreds of people “who died from a lack of oxygen supply, dialysis patients that couldn’t receive treatment because of the lack of electricity, and people who died of heart attacks.” Congressional leaders are calling “for an investigation into underreporting in the official death toll following the hurricane.”¹ Restoration of services is incomplete and geographically uneven. More than 74% of the island’s inhabitants lack electric service and 22% lack potable water.² Furthermore, estimates indicate that number of totally destroyed residential properties ranged between 25,000–30,000 and 60,000–90,000, with an additional 250,000 partially damaged residences.³ The number of destroyed and damaged homes indicates that upward of 70,000 may be displaced from their homes. At last count, 3,655 were still seeking safe haven in 82 government-run shelters. This number does not even include the thousands of newly homeless who have moved in with family. The Federal Emergency Management Agency re-

ports that it has approved more than 182,000 applications for individual assistance.⁴

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The economic consequences of Hurricane Maria will be felt for years and reverberate for decades. The storm devastated Puerto Rico at a particularly difficult time for the island. The Government of Puerto Rico is facing a fiscal crisis with more than \$74 billion in public debt and has experienced more than a decade of economic stagnation. The impact of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico’s economy has been devastating and will push Puerto Rico further unto a downward economic spiral.

Researchers from the Climate Impact Lab described Maria as a 1-in-3,000 event, which is reflected in the severity of the potential long-term economic impact. They estimated the impact of Hurricane Maria using an econometric model that takes into account the costs of cyclones over the past 60 years and applies it to the pre-storm economic conditions in Puerto Rico. According to their findings “Maria could lower

Puerto Rican incomes by 21 percent over the next 15 years — a cumulative \$180 billion in lost economic output.” They conclude that “Maria could be as economically costly as the 1997 Asian financial crisis was to Indonesia and Thailand and more than twice as damaging as the 1994 Peso Crisis was to Mexico — but this time on American soil.”⁵

DEPOPULATION OF THE ISLAND

Over the past ten years half a million Puerto Ricans have migrated from the island to the mainland, with the annual rate of emigration from Puerto Rico exceeding 60,000 people in the past few years. The catastrophic conditions on the island are expected to result in an even larger emigration.

Recently, it was estimated that between 114,000 and 213,000 residents of Puerto Rico will leave the island annually in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.⁶ From 2017 to 2019, it has been estimated that Puerto Rico may lose up to 470,335 residents or 14 percent of the population. The largest impact of this exodus is likely to affect Florida, where an estimated flow of 40,998 to 82,707 individuals is expected. Nevertheless, a large portion of the Puerto Rican migrants to the mainland are also expected to arrive to Mid-Atlantic States (Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey). It has been estimated that between 17,396 and 52,500 individuals will migrate from Puerto Rico to these States.

Table 2. Post-Maria Exodus from Puerto Rico to the Top 5 States (one-year estimates)

Rank	State	Puerto Rican Population 2016	Average Migrants 2013-2016	Migration Estimates	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
	United States	5,450,472	64,933	114,396	212,607
1	Florida	1,067,747	24,221	40,998	82,707
2	Pennsylvania	444,263	6,333	6,542	27,051
3	Texas	196,460	5,500	5,276	27,153
4	New York	1,081,110	3,822	7,350	11,877
5	New Jersey	470,143	3,251	3,504	13,572

Source: American Community Survey, various years.

Note: Lower bound estimates are double the lowest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Upper bound estimates are three times the highest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Since the ACS estimates are based on random sampling of the population, the smaller the numbers reported in this table the larger the margin of error for the estimates.

MIGRATION TO THE U.S. MAINLAND WILL NEED CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICES

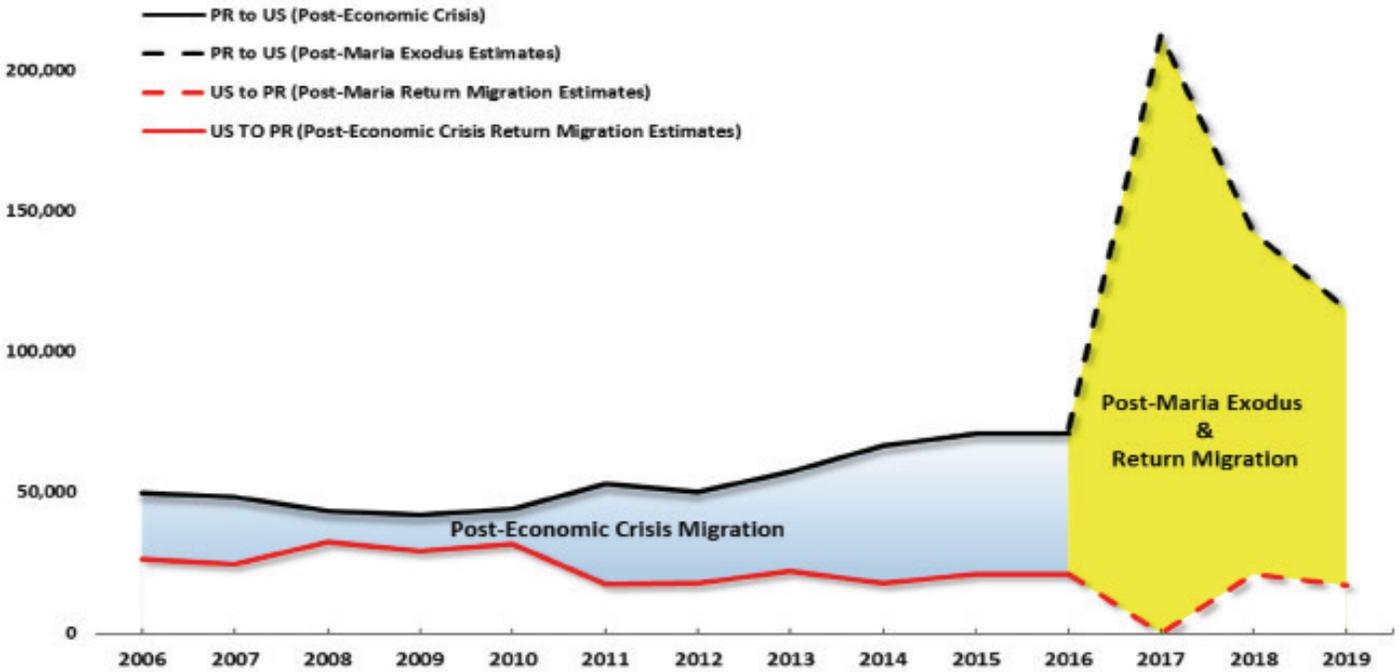
Given the magnitude of the destruction and incapacitation of the physical and institutional infrastructure, it is expected that the emigration stream from Puerto Rico will reflect a different age composition, including not only people of prime working age, but also of very young and

Table 1. Impacts of Hurricane Maria in the Economy of Puerto Rico

	Percentage
Gas Stations	84%
Supermarkets	89%
Cell Sites	34%
Cell Towers	60%
Business Processing PAN	39%
Hotels	52%
Casinos	78%
Bank Branches	73%
Telecommunications	66%
Milk Industry	73%
Crops Destroyed:	80%

Source: <http://status.pr/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/24/us/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-agriculture-.html>

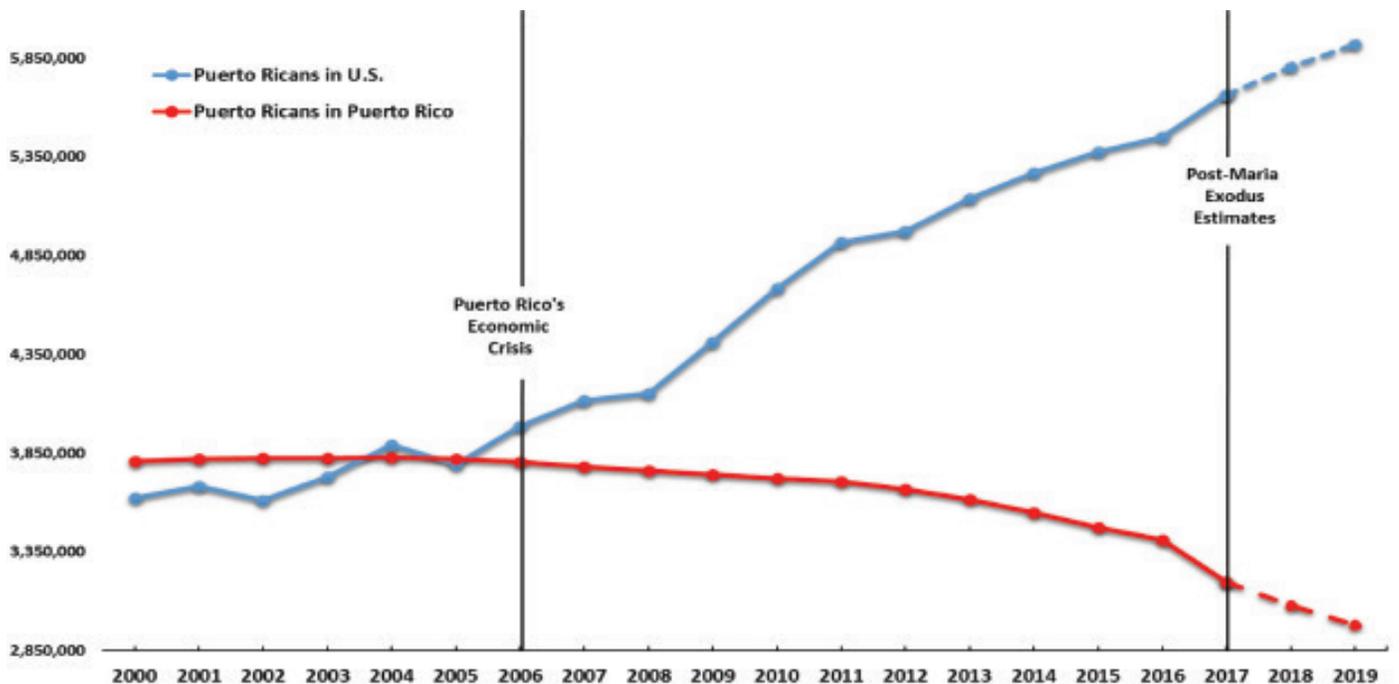
Graphic 1. Post-Maria Migration from Puerto Rico to the United States 2006 to 2016 and 2017 to 2019 Estimates



Source: American Community Survey, various years.

Note: Lower bound estimates are double the lowest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Upper bound estimates are three times the highest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Since the ACS estimates are based on random sampling of the population, the smaller the numbers reported in this table the larger the margin of error for the estimates.

Graphic 2. Post-Maria Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans in the United States Population 2006 to 2016 and 2017 to 2019 Estimates



Source: American Community Survey, various years.

Note: Lower bound estimates are double the lowest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Upper bound estimates are three times the highest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Since the ACS estimates are based on random sampling of the population, the smaller the numbers reported in this table the larger the margin of error for the estimates.

Table 3. Overall Post-Maria Exodus from Puerto Rico by Demographic Breakdown (one-year estimates)

	Puerto Rican Population 2016	Average Migrants 2013-2016	Migration Estimates	
			Lower Bound	Upper Bound
United States	5,450,472	64,933	114,396	212,607
Under 5 years	474,191	4,600	8,068	16,443
School Age (5 to 17 years)	1,220,906	13,050	22,710	42,771
College Age (18 to 24 years)	621,354	9,726	17,250	32,721
Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	2,676,182	32,527	50,458	104,091
Seniors (65 years and over)	457,840	5,030	8,572	16,464

Source: American Community Survey, various years.

Note: Lower bound estimates are double the lowest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Upper bound estimates are three times the highest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Since the ACS estimates are based on random sampling of the population, the smaller the numbers reported in this table the larger the margin of error for the estimates.

very old cohorts. The hurricane destroyed the electricity delivery infrastructure (the grid), washed out roadways and bridges, and damaged schools and other municipal facilities, hindering the normal provision of governmental services. Medical facilities have curtailed services, save for emergency interventions, leading many patients with little options for treatment of chronic conditions and elective surgical procedures. Anecdotal and news accounts show many patients being flown from the island to receive medical services in the United States as well as children of school-age being taken-in by relatives in order to resume their schooling.

To ascertain the question of what are the potential impacts of the depopulation of Puerto Rico on stateside communities, we disaggregated data of the estimated emigrant stream over the next two years by demographic groups to provide some indicators of the impact of relocation of the victims of Hurricane Maria on local public services. Table 2 depicts cross-tabulations for the top five states expected to receive Puerto Rican emigrants for which there were sufficient observations. For analytical purposes, we divided the population as follows:

- School Age (5 to 17 years old)
- College Age (18 to 24 years old)
- Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years old)
- Seniors (65+)

We estimate that 2,864 to 14,760 school-age children will migrate from Puerto Rico to the Mid-Atlantic Region (NY,N-J,PA) with their families. These children will be enrolled in public and private schools across the country requiring enrollment and transfer services, English as a second language or bilingual education, after-school programs, and counseling. In addition, infants and toddlers 4 years old or younger will most likely require full-time or part-time daycare and babysitting. These children will also need pediatric care, and many of their parents will need access to translation and culturally sensitive health care services.

The estimate for college-age youth (18 to 24 years old) to leave the island for the mid-Atlantic in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria is from 2,786 to 9,348. In the short term many of these students may see their college studies interrupted. There are many university systems in Florida and New York (e.g., SUNY, CUNY), and other states that are coordinating

Table 4. Post-Maria Exodus from Puerto Rico for Mid-Atlantic States (one-year estimates)

Rank	State	Puerto Rican Population 2016	Average Migrants 2013-2016	Migration Estimates	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	Florida	1,067,747	24,221	40,998	82,707
	School Age (5 to 17 years)	227,430	4,955	9,666	15,408
	College Age (18 to 24 years)	111,046	2,497	3,634	8,847
	Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	547,754	13,029	20,280	47,175
	Seniors (65 years and over)	108,910	1,802	3,026	6,321
2	Pennsylvania	444,263	6,333	6,542	27,051
	School Age (5 to 17 years)	114,620	1,652	880	9,840
	College Age (18 to 24 years)	54,200	1,069	1,466	4,473
	Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	206,582	2,576	2,222	10,185
	Seniors (65 years and over)	23,102	542	1,083	3,285
3	Texas	196,460	5,500	5,276	27,153
	School Age (5 to 17 years)	44,204	1,227	866	5,988
	College Age (18 to 24 years)	22,396	724	554	3,843
	Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	100,980	3,175	2,806	15,255
	Seniors (65 years and over)	11,591	107	213	561
4	New York	1,081,110	3,822	7,350	11,877
	School Age (5 to 17 years)	215,141	756	1,102	3,087
	College Age (18 to 24 years)	121,084	539	670	2,373
	Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	534,068	1,558	2,548	5,142
	Seniors (65 years and over)	126,490	810	676	3,216
5	New Jersey	470,143	3,251	3,504	13,572
	School Age (5 to 17 years)	102,021	548	882	1,833
	College Age (18 to 24 years)	48,895	325	650	2,502
	Middle Age adults (25 to 64 years)	232,721	2,008	1,772	8,136
	Seniors (65 years and over)	40,432	204	78	1,317

Source: American Community Survey, various years.

Note: Lower bound estimates are double the lowest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Upper bound estimates are three times the highest number of migrants registered during the prior three years. Since the ACS estimates are based on random sampling of the population, the smaller the numbers reported in this table the larger the margin of error for the estimates.

efforts to provide accommodations for affected students from Puerto Rico, such as online courses or exchanges, that will allow them to keep their affiliation to Puerto Rico universities while continuing their education with stateside institutions. More than anything, college students need information on the plethora of academic programs that may support their preferences for institutional affiliation and career preparation.

The estimate for working-age adults (25 to 64 years old) migrating from the island to New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania is from 6,542 to 23,463. The main consideration for this group in terms of local support services will be access to employment and housing, and relocation assistance, especially if they have families and children. Florida and New York have been exemplary in their outreach to the Puerto Rican community, offering policy and programmatic initiatives to assist Puerto Ricans both in the island and as they relocate stateside.

The last demographic group, seniors (65+) migrating from the island to the mid-Atlantic region, represents 1,837 to 7,818 persons, the smallest fraction when compared to other demographic groups. Seniors are the demographic group that traditionally is less likely to become emigrants. However, many seniors require specialized medical care that might be lacking on the island at the moment, and their families may encourage and facilitate their move to where they can receive appropriate treatment and care.

In the case of New York, seniors (65+) are overrepresented while college-aged individuals are underrepresented. Given the new opportunities offered to Puerto Ricans post-Maria, it is expected that more college-age residents in the island will migrate to New York.

FEDERAL RESPONSE

Below are highlights of the response from the United States government in the wake of Hurricane Maria:

- On September 28, 8 days after the storm, the Pentagon appointed US Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, Commander of USNORTHCOM's Joint Force Land Component Command, to serve as the Department of

Defense's primary liaison to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He is tasked with coordinating military relief efforts in Puerto Rico as response efforts transition from a sea-based to a land-based operation.

- A request from the Government of Puerto Rico to waive FEMA cost-sharing requirements was approved by the White House. The President authorized 100 percent cost share for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct federal assistance, for 180 days, beginning on September 17, 2017. This waiver does not cover long-term assistance efforts, hazard mitigation projects, or grants to replace personal property and help meet medical, dental, funeral, transportation, and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, municipality, and charitable aid programs. Those services continue to fall under the 75/25 cost-sharing requirement.
- Department of Homeland Security approved a waiver for the Jones Act waiver for 10 days. It was not renewed.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have installed 38,000 roofing tarps. However, around 60,000 home are in need. Currently, teams are installing temporary roofs and accepting applications in: Arecibo, Vega Baja, Vega Alta, Dorado, San Juan, Caguas, Loíza, Yabucoa and Humacao. Teams are collecting applications and anticipate Blue Roof installations to begin soon in Aguadilla, Manatí, Bayamón, Carolina Luquillo, Fajardo, San Lorenzo and Mayagüez. The first blue tarp was installed on October 5.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun awarding contracts for Puerto Rico power restoration efforts. The Contracting Team from the Puerto Rico Recovery Field Office met with local businesses to brief them on upcoming acquisition opportunities.

- USNS Comfort, a U.S. Navy hospital ship, was ordered to deploy 6 days after the storm and took almost two weeks to arrive in Puerto Rico. Comparatively, it was deployed immediately after Hurricanes Katrina and

Rita. The hospital has been underutilized despite overburdened island clinics and hospitals on the ground. Puerto Rico’s Department of Health was supposed to refer patients to the USNS Comfort, but there had been few referrals by October 17. This was due to an apparent communications issue that according to Governor Rosselló is being addressed.

Electric Grid Restoration

Just 26% of the Puerto Rico Electric and Power Authority customers have service. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted three different contracts to U.S. based companies. A contract for \$35.1 million dollars was awarded to Weston

Solutions, to provide power generation at the Palo Seco Plant, one of the main power providers to the city of San Juan. Weston Solutions, based out of West Chester, Pennsylvania will provide and install one 50 MW generator. The second contract awarded was for \$240 million to the Fluor Corporation, headquartered out of Irving, Texas. Fluor Corp. supplements the ongoing efforts to repair transmission and distribution lines. The contract includes equipment evaluation and repair, as well as the re-energization and recommissioning of substations and switching stations. The latest contract awarded by the USACE is a \$40-million contract to PowerSecure Inc., headquartered in Wake Forest, North Carolina. They are tasked with repairing the distribution and transmission lines.

Table 5. Bills Passed by Congress

Bill	Agency	Program	Allocation (millions)	State or Territory	Status
H.R. 601	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Disaster Relief Fund	\$7,400	TX, FL, GA, PR, USVI	Signed into Law
H.R. 601	Small Business Administration	Disaster Loans Program Account	\$450	TX, FL, GA, PR, USVI	Signed into Law
H.R. 601	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	Community Development Block Grant	\$7,400	TX, FL, GA, PR, USVI	Signed into Law
H.R. 2266	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Disaster Relief Fund	\$13,580	TX, FL, GA, PR, USVI, CA	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	Federal Emergency Management Agency	DHS Audit	\$10	.	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program	\$4,900	TX, FL, GA, PR, USVI, CA	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program	\$150	PR, USVI	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Wildland Fire Management	\$184.50	CA	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	U.S. Department of Agriculture	FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Fund	\$342	CA	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	U.S. Department of Interior	Wildland Fire Management	\$50	CA	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Disaster Nutrition Assistance Program	\$1,270	PR	Presented to President
H.R. 2266	National Flood Insurance Program*	General Fund	\$16,000	TX, FL, PR, USVI	Presented to President

*Less than 1% participation in PR

The Puerto Rican Electric Power Authority has awarded contracts to Whitefish Energy Holdings for \$300 million and Cobra Acquisitions LLC for \$200 million. Two federal inquiries into the Whitefish Energy Holdings acquisition process have been opened. One is led by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general and a House committee also opened a review of the multimillion dollar contract.

The Government of Puerto Rico has also been in talks with Tesla, which installed solar panels in San Juan's Hospital del Niño, and other private companies, to spearhead projects to help in this alternative effort. In addition, the New York Power Authority and other states are providing help through mutual aid agreements. However, materials are still scarce and are limiting rebuilding efforts.

CONGRESSIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Two appropriations have already occurred that provide funding for disaster relief efforts in Puerto Rico. However, both bills will likely only provide funding for immediate efforts rather than long-term recovery and reconstruction.

First Disaster Relief Package: H.R. 601/ PL 115-56

The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017 (PL 115-56) was signed into law September 8, 2017. Initially funds appropriated by this bill were intended to fund disaster relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey and Irma. However, while appropriations were made prior to Hurricane Maria, funds from this bill were available to Puerto Rico after a major disaster was declared on the island. This \$15.3 billion relief bill was meant to address the immediate need for disaster relief funding. However, due to the amount of damage caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, additional funds were necessary by the following month.

Second Disaster Package- H.R. 2266

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$36.5 billion disaster relief supplemental package on October 12. This disaster relief package is the second installment of aid money that Congress has approved this term. However, these funds are not exclusive to Puerto Rico.

\$18.67 billion is intended to replenish the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund. Up to \$4.9 billion of this amount may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account. Additionally, \$150 million may be transferred to the Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program to lend a territory or possession of the United States that portion of assistance for which the territory or possession is responsible under the cost-sharing provisions. The bill also provides \$1.27 billion in grants for disaster nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico. This is the only appropriation that is specific to Puerto Rico. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program will provide a grant to the Government of Puerto Rico for disaster nutrition assistance.

The final \$16 billion in the bill goes to the National Flood Insurance Program to a portion of its current debt. However, Puerto Rico has less than a 1% participation rate in the NFIP. Just 5,675 federal flood insurance policies exist on an island with nearly 1.57 million housing units. These funds are unlikely to have any significant impact on the island.

At present, the proposed disaster supplemental appropriations add up to approximately \$51.7 billion. These appropriations for disaster relief are not just limited to Puerto Rico, but encompass other disaster relief efforts in Texas, California, Florida, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When you remove funding for direct loans and the National Flood Insurance Program it leaves around \$30 billion for disaster relief funds to be divided between Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

POLICY PROPOSAL

Lawmakers and stakeholders have proposed several measures to be addressed in Congress to facilitate Puerto Rico's long-term recovery.

- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program: Waive the state level guaranty and local collateral requirements under 44 CFR § 206.364(d).
- Jones Act Waiver: Import costs in Puerto Rico are often much higher than in neighboring islands partly to the is-

land being subject to Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, known as the “Jones Act.” The Jones Act requires all shipping to and from US ports to be conducted with US vessels and crews.

- Help Puerto Rico restore and improve its energy infrastructure.
- Waiver for ALL Federal Matching Requirements for FEMA disaster public assistance programs: FEMA should waive or lower the local cost share for permanent repair of infrastructure and hazard mitigation projects.
- Eliminate the formula for Puerto Rico’s Federal ceiling on Medicaid: Unlike in states where the federal government pays a fixed share of Medicaid costs based on the state’s relative per capita income, for Puerto Rico the federal share only covers up to 55 percent of costs up to a fixed annual funding cap. The Affordable Care Act provided a one-time supplemental federal grant of over \$7 billion to be used to cover the federal share above the fixed annual cap, but that funding is nearly exhausted, after which Puerto Rico would be required to fund roughly 80 percent of its Medicaid program.
- Enact EITC and CTC: The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is generally not available to those residing in Puerto Rico and no local labor credit currently exists. The EITC is widely accepted as an effective policy tool for stimulating economic growth and enjoys long-standing bipartisan support. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the EITC and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) were responsible for lifting 9.4 million workers out of poverty in 2010 and reducing child poverty by 7% in 2014.

NOTES

¹ Puerto Rico funeral homes are burning bodies that aren’t being counted in official Hurricane Maria death toll Retrieved 10/29/2017 from: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/puerto-rican-bodies-aren-counted-official-death-toll-article-1.3594202>

² https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/opinion/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=opinion-c-col-left-region®ion=opinion-c-col-left-region&WT.nav=opinion-c-col-left-region&_r=0

³ New Orleans Population 2017, World Population Review. Retrieved October 12, 2017 from: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/new-orleans-population/>

⁴ Michael L. Dolfman, Solidelle Fortier Wasser, and Bruce Bergman, “The effects of Hurricane Katrina on the New Orleans economy.” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review, June 2007.

⁵ Hsiang, Solomon and Houser, Trevor. The Mind-bending and Heart-breaking Economics of Hurricane Maria 2017 <http://www.impactlab.org/news-insights/the-mind-bending-and-heart-breaking-economics-of-hurricane-maria/>

⁶ Melendez, Edwin, and Jennifer Hinojosa. Estimates of Post-Hurricane Maria Exodus from Puerto Rico. New York, NY: Center for Puerto Rican Studies, 2017.

The Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Centro) is the nation’s leading university-based institution devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. Centro is dedicated to understanding, preserving and sharing the Puerto Rican experience in the United States. Centro invites Centro Voices contributors to make use of the extensive archival, bibliographic and research material preserved in its Library and Archives.

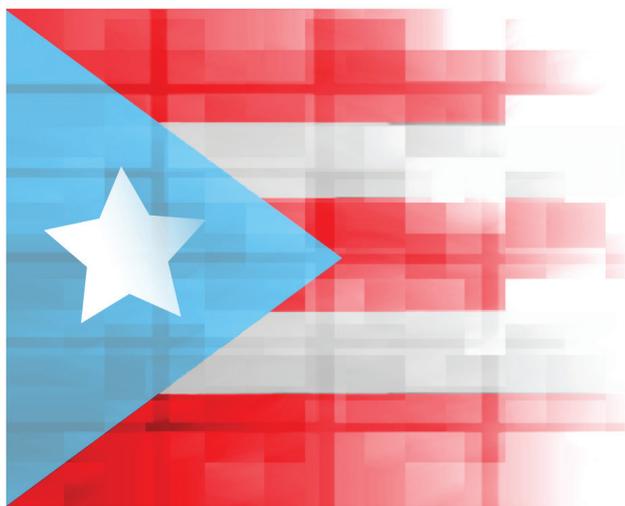
The Centro Library and Archives is devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to resources documenting the history and culture of Puerto Ricans. The Centro Library and Archives was established in 1973 as a component of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies. The collections include books, current and historic newspapers and periodicals, audio, film & video, manuscripts, photographs, art prints, and recorded music. The Library and Archives provides services and programs to the scholarly community as well as the general public. Constituents are diverse and come from the United States and abroad. The Library and Archives facilitates access to information on its holdings through the City University’s online public catalog or CUNY+. It also provides research and information assistance via phone and email.

Centro Library and Archives

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REBUILD PUERTO RICO

Rebuild Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria, a devastating Category 4 hurricane, caused billions of dollars in damages to Puerto Rico and left 3.4 million island residents without power, potable water, and telecommunications. Recovery is estimated to take years. Centro has launched Rebuild Puerto Rico, an online information clearinghouse for the stateside Puerto Rican community and other allies to support disaster relief and recovery efforts. A Rebuild Puerto Rico newsletter highlighting new content on the online platform will be issued weekly and as needed.

Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico at a time of great financial difficulty for the island and its residents, leaving behind widespread destruction and a humanitarian crisis. Stay up to date with recent events related to recovery and reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico.

[News](#)

You can help by donating directly to charities in Puerto Rico that are leading the effort to mitigate the humanitarian crisis. The website contains a list of charities and local initiatives with direct access to the victims of these hurricanes.

[Donate](#)

Browse current volunteer opportunities in support of disaster relief and recovery and reconstruction efforts.

[Volunteer](#)

Puerto Rican community leaders and elected officials in the diaspora are calling for a renewed effort to assist Puerto Rico with disaster relief and recovery. Many have responded to this call to action and have planned events in support of relief efforts.

[Events](#)

This natural disaster will undoubtedly dictate the upcoming policy agenda for the island. It is imperative that we maintain public awareness for disaster relief efforts and engagement, not just in the emergency phase but also during recovery and reconstruction.

[Policy](#)

Several federal, state, local, and private sector programs are available for those affected by a natural disaster. This page contains a collection of important resources and agencies that can help you during this difficult time.

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