

Consent Form

You are invited to take part in a research study about the experiences of low to moderate-income survivors during recovery from Hurricanes Irma, Michael, and Ian. For this study you are invited to describe your experience in returning to your original home/apartment or locating a new home after disaster. This form is part of a process called “informed consent” to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part.

This study seeks 10-13 volunteers who:

- English proficiency
- 18 year old or older
- Were **displaced** by one or more of the following disasters:
 - Hurricane **Irma** (2017), Hurricane **Michael** (2018), and Hurricane **Ian** (2022)
- Were a **Renter** residing in one of the following counties:
 - Hurricane Irma – Collier, Hendry, Lee and Monroe County
 - Hurricane Michael – Bay, Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, and Jackson County
 - Hurricane Ian – Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Lee, Sarasota, and Volusia County
- At the time of displacement, household income was **below** \$75,000.

This study is being conducted by a researcher named Auvergene Larry, who is a Ph.D. student at Walden University.

Study Purpose:

This project will create and test a tool that will help public officials, politicians, and researchers figure out how survivors' unique identities affect their ability to find affordable housing after a disaster.

Procedures:

This study will involve you completing the following steps:

- Participate in a 45 minute to 60 minute audio recorded interview via phone, zoom, teams or in-person.
- Schedule a 20-30 minute follow-up meeting with the researcher to validate that your interview transcript is correct and provide additional feedback (it is called transcript review)

Here are some sample questions:

1. Describe your displacement experience from Hurricane XXX.
2. How long were you displaced without housing? (house, apartment, condominium, mobile home, etc.)
Describe the conditions of where you were staying
3. Please tell me about any financial assistance you received after the disaster. How long did it take you to receive the funding? -What organization provided you with the funding? If you did not receive any funding, please tell me why.

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Research should only be done with those who freely volunteer. So, everyone involved will respect your decision to join or not. No one will treat you differently based on whether you volunteer or not. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind later. You may stop at any time. Please note that not all volunteers will be contacted to take part in the interview phase of the project.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

Being in this study could involve some risk of the minor discomforts that can be encountered in daily life such as sharing sensitive information. With the protections in place, this study would pose minimal risk to your wellbeing. The Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) is a national hotline that provides year-round disaster crisis counseling. This toll-free, multilingual crisis support service is available to all U.S. residents and its territories experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. **Call or text [1-800-985-5990](tel:1-800-985-5990).**

This study offers no direct benefits to individual volunteers. The goal is to benefit society by creating a barrier-based instrument that could be utilized by non-governmental organizations, government officials, and housing organizations to assist in creating policies that could help low to moderate-income obtain affordable housing after a disaster. Once the analysis is complete, the researcher will share the overall results by emailing you a summary, posting on the researchers website <https://auvergenelarry.research.st>, Scholarworks, or inviting you to a presentation.

Payment: There is no payment.

Privacy:

The researcher is required to protect your privacy. Your identity will be kept confidential, within the limits of the law. The researcher will not use your personal information for any purposes outside of this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything else that could identify you in the study reports. If the researcher were to share this dataset with another researcher in the future, the dataset would contain no identifiers so this would not involve another round of obtaining informed consent. Data will be kept secure by password protection and codes will be used in place of names. Data will be kept for a period of at least 5 years, as required by the university.

Contacts and Questions:

You can ask questions of the researcher by phone at (813) 563-8377 or email at affordablehousingresearch@yahoo.com or visit website: <https://auvergenelarry.research.st>

If you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant or any negative parts of the study, you can call Walden University's Research Participant Advocate at 612-312-1210 or irb@mail.waldenu.edu. Walden University's approval number for this study is **IRB will enter approval number here**. It expires on **IRB will enter expiration date**.

You might wish to retain this consent form for your records. You may ask the researcher or Walden University for a copy at any time using the contact info above.

Obtaining Your Consent

If you feel you understand the study and wish to volunteer, please indicate your consent by replying to this email with the word "I consent", sign below and return to the researcher, or state you consent on audio recording.

Printed Name of Participant

Date of Consent

Participant's Signature

Researcher's Signature
