

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ADVOCACY GROUP REVEALS REPORT ON HARVEY RECOVERY FOR IMMIGRANTS WITH DISABILITIES

01/29: Press Conference to Release Findings on the Impact of Hurricane Harvey on Vulnerable Communities

Over 500,000 undocumented immigrants in the Greater Houston Area, many with a disability, Report Recommendations include solutions from the county to federal level

HOUSTON - On Tuesday, Living Hope Wheelchair Association will reveal findings on the impact Hurricane Harvey and recovery efforts have on the experiences of undocumented immigrants with disabilities, their caregivers, and other vulnerable communities. The report will also highlight the difficulties of navigating the relief and recovery systems for people with disabilities.

A roundtable will be held immediately after the press conference with representatives from community-based organizations, City of Houston Disability Rights experts and representatives of Immigrant and Refugee rights organizations. This roundtable will discuss the recommendations at length through the lens of city to national recovery efforts.

Who: Living Hope Wheelchair Association

What: Press Conference, followed by roundtable discussion

When: Tuesday, January 29th at 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Where: West Gray Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray Street, Houston TX 77019

Available speakers:

- Tomás Aguilar, Report Author
- Francisco Argüelles, Executive Director, Living Hope Wheelchair Association
- Ismael Garcia, Disaster Recovery Researcher, Living Hope Wheelchair Association
- Maria: undocumented immigrant, caregiver to Armando
- Rosy: caregiver; had trouble getting mold remediation and was threatened (to have the person she was caring for taken away) if she didn't get her repairs/remediation done
- Sheryl: african american woman experienced nightmare during hurricane
- Lilian: is still experiencing the disaster of recovery

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Living Hope Wheelchair Association is a community based, nonprofit organization founded and operated by immigrants with spinal cord injuries as well as with other disabilities to help one another improve our quality of life and to promote our rights.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 1, 2019

Contact: Tomas Aguilar, tomas@lhwassociation.org , (737) 207-1878

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NEW REPORT: Immigrants with Disabilities Lack Access, City and Federal Government Must Act

Pre-Existing Conditions In a Time of Disasters: How immigrants with disabilities navigate relief and recovery after Hurricane Harvey

Community-based research provides serious recommendations for local, state, and federal relief agencies

[Univision](#): cómo las personas indocumentadas y en situación de discapacidad sobrellevaron el fenómeno natural

HOUSTON - Today, Living Hope Wheelchair Association releases “Pre-Existing Conditions In a Time of Disasters, a revealing the challenges immigrants with disabilities are facing when navigating relief and recovery systems

“The immigrant and people with disabilities community continue to experience difficulty when navigating relief after Harvey with many continuing to face hardships today,” said **Francisco Argüelles, Executive Director, Living Hope Wheelchair Association**. “We strongly urge that city and county officials help extend access to the immigrant and disability community by implementing recommendations laid out in our report.”

Living Hope conducted surveys with individuals who had experience Hurricane Harvey. Individuals were people with disabilities, their caretakers, and families in neighborhoods affected by Hurricane Harvey.

- Over 259 people were surveyed with over 43% of those who responded identified as undocumented.
- All respondents and their household members reported health issues due to Harvey.
- 1/3 of respondents applied for FEMA assistance. While a large majority received aid, it was not enough to cover the cost of repairs.
- One in every three respondents lost their job after Hurricane Harvey,
- One in three respondents had transportation issues or had lost their car in the storm.

“I was forced to choose between moving back to a home with unfinished repairs or risk having my daughter taken away from me.” **said Rosa, immigrant, caretaker, and Living Hope member.**

Living Hope was joined by representatives Texas Housers, West Street Recovery, The Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities and the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative. The full report can be found [here](#). A livestream of the group's roundtable can be found [here](#).

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iving Hope Wheelchair Association is a community based, nonprofit organization founded and operated by immigrants with spinal cord injuries as well as with other disabilities to help one another improve our quality of life and to promote our rights. To learn more please visit www.lhwassociation.org.