

Policy Recommendations to Address Climate-Forced Displacement in the United States:

The Need for an Equitable and Just Response

The climate crisis is ravaging communities nationwide, particularly Indigenous Peoples and communities of color, who are at extreme risk of climate-forced displacement. Recurrent flooding, extreme weather and water events, wildfires, and other climate-induced disasters have claimed hundreds of lives, destroyed thousands of homes, forcibly displaced many communities, and caused tens of billions of dollars in economic damage. However, federal climate adaptation and disaster relief programs are not designed to assist communities with the greatest need, but, instead, have disproportionately benefited white and more affluent communities. This disparity is made worse because the government lacks a coordinated response—or dedicated proper funding—to support communities who wish to remain in their homes or move out of harm's way.

The conclusion is clear: We need both Congressional and executive action to provide a more equitable and just response to the human costs of climate change, particularly for communities that have been disproportionately affected by climate change impacts, extreme weather and water events, and recovery responses. The Legal Justice Coalition and the Rising Voices Community Relocation & Site Expansion Working Group propose the following actions, which would also support economic development and job creation in places that need it the most.

SOLUTIONS

