



State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany 12224

Andrew M. Cuomo
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2018

The Honorable Brock Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

The Honorable Ben Carson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Administrator Long and Secretary Carson:

On behalf of Puerto Rican families in New York and across the nation, I am writing to request that you extend the June 30th deadline for the Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) Program and immediately activate the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP). The island of Puerto Rico is still recovering from the devastating consequences of Hurricane Maria, and it is unthinkable that the federal government would abandon Puerto Ricans in their time of need.

In New York State, there are 125 Puerto Rican families relying on the TSA program for a roof over their heads. While FEMA's decision to extend the deadline from May 15th through June 30th was a positive step, it was insufficient. Many families still do not have safe, secure housing to return to in Puerto Rico.

In addition to extending the TSA program, I call on you to activate the DHAP program, which has proven to be a crucial resource for families in need after numerous natural disasters, including Superstorm Sandy here in New York. FEMA's decision to

direct survivors to existing HUD programs in lieu of activating the proven DHAP program is ill-conceived and myopic, as the existing programs are inadequate and oversubscribed.

More than nine months since Hurricane Maria made landfall, many Puerto Ricans are still struggling to secure one of the most basic human needs—housing. It is imperative that you extend these fundamental services to help our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters recover and rebuild.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "C".

ANDREW M. CUOMO