

Disaster Housing Task Force Newsletter

Dear Task Force Members,

Please enjoy the second release of the Disaster Housing Task Force (DHTF) newsletter, created by the Delaware State Housing Authority (DSHA). Below is the most up-to-date information on Delaware's disaster housing-related activities, events, and Disaster Housing Strategy developments and progress.

Big News

Senate Bill 310, the Delaware Disaster Recovery Fund, passed both the Senate and House floors this session! We are eagerly awaiting Governor Meyer's signature to officially pass this bill into law. Next steps will include initial convening of the Recovery Advisory Council (RAC) to create its own bylaws and developing a Disaster Housing Program under DSHA.

Reminder...

Join us Thursday, August 13, for a [virtual meeting](#) to review a Disaster Housing Strategy update, where we will discuss DHTF communication flows, activations, and internal structures!

What's New

In partnership with the Delaware Sea Grant (DESG), DSHA is offering free risk mapping workshops to municipalities. These workshops will help localities learn about hazards likely to affect their jurisdictions, identify their most vulnerable populations, and determine potential interim housing locations. This mapping exercise can also be used as a jumping off point to support additional planning activities, such as meeting comprehensive planning recommendations or requirements; achieving Climate Action Plan goals; and implementing disaster housing planning actions. Multiple municipalities per county can attend a workshop together.



Looking Ahead

Cole Shultz, Research Specialist at DSHA, will be reaching out to DHTF members over the upcoming months to set up virtual meetings. Together, Cole and I are looking to validate resources already captured within the Disaster Housing Strategy and reflect any updates/changes. Stay on the lookout for Cole's email, and if you have any new task force member suggestions, please share them or connect us directly!

Progress on Disaster Housing Preparedness Actions

This section will remain in the newsletter to provide visualizations of the progress the DHTF is making per Disaster Housing Strategy recommendation. Quick refresher: there are 10 prioritized pre-disaster capacity building actions included within the Strategy. The goal of these recommendations is to help state and local levels mitigate the impacts of disasters and enhance their ability to respond and recover efficiently.



Provide technical assistance to local and county governments

In partnership with the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration (IPA), DSHA launched a Disaster Housing Preparedness pilot program in September 2025 to support a cohort of three Sussex County municipalities in adopting legislative and/or administrative actions intended to streamline their housing recovery process. Each participating municipality expects to complete a pre-disaster recovery ordinance tailored to the needs of their communities by the end of 2026.



Identify land use parameters and conduct analysis for the potential siting of temporary housing

Inspired by positive feedback received during the technical assistance pilot program, DSHA and DESG will be replicating a mapping exercise in which participants identify high-risk areas and potential interim housing locations. All municipalities are invited to participate and corresponding counties are encouraged to attend.

**Examine the potential to maintain a state fund for housing recovery**

SB310 passed! Though we are still awaiting Governor Meyer's signature, the DHTF-inspired legislation proposing a Disaster Recovery Fund made it through the legislature. This is a HUGE step toward preparing Delaware for a more expedient and wholesome recovery process. Great job, DHTF!

**Coordinate damage assessment data processes and management across partners**

DEMA is close to completing an online public Damage Reporting Tool (DRT). After a disaster, residents will be able to use the web-based survey and mapping tool to report property damage, immediate needs, and other life-safety needs for individuals.

**Introduce the Disaster Housing Strategy to partners across the state**

DSHA is posting videos and other content online to help educate the general public on Delaware's disaster housing efforts. This is an area that we'd love extra support in!

**Provide training to state agencies, local jurisdictions, and volunteers**

The Disaster Housing Mapping Workshop offered to municipalities is a current opportunity to educate localities on disaster housing preparedness options and communication

**Examine potential to adopt a statewide building code**

After being included as a recommendation in both the Disaster Housing Strategy and the Affordable Housing Production Task Force final report, EO18, signed on February 26, 2026, mandates that the State Fire Marshall "shall convene a working group to review and suggest any changes to the Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations, including proposals for statewide fire and building codes...". No official changes have been made, but this idea continues to circulate.

**Assess capacity and prepare to manage and implement potential disaster funding**

This may be worth further consideration at the local level once SB310 is signed.

**Coordinate with local jurisdictions to implement tracking of disaster-related building permits**

Under consideration

**Examine the potential to support mandated rental registration**

Under consideration

Stay Connected

For more information or to get involved, please contact Vanessa Cullen, Emergency Management Coordinator at vanessa.cullen@delaware.gov. For more information on DSHA, visit <https://www.destatehousing.com/>.

