

Calendar

February 28th
9:30 – 11:00

You're Invited! Virtual Meet-n-Greet with the Greater Houston Disaster Alliance

Any organization that responds to disasters in any capacity and serves any of the 4 counties listed below is invited to participate in this Greater Houston Disaster Alliance (GHDA) Orientation. We'll introduce you to our 3-year plan and ask for your input and insight as we set priorities focused on building disaster resiliency in the Greater Houston region.



- Fort Bend
- Harris
- Montgomery
- Waller

Wednesday, February 28 @ 10:30 am - 12 noon via Zoom.

- **[Information and Registration](#)**
- **[Register here.](#)**

Education Spotlight

IS-288.c This independent study course provides a basic understanding of the history, roles and services of disaster relief voluntary agencies in providing disaster assistance. It is appropriate for both the general public and those involved in emergency management operations.

The overall goal of this Independent Study course is to increase awareness of the roles and responsibilities of voluntary agencies in emergency management. Voluntary agencies have helped meet the needs of individuals and

DO YOU KNOW?

What are the benefits of collaboration?

- A. Improved Service Delivery**
- B. Improved Relationships**
- C. Increased Fragmentation of Services**
- D. Service to Selected Populations**
- E. A and B**

communities affected by disasters since the 1800's. Today, they serve a critical role in the emergency management field from helping communities prepare for and mitigate the effects of disasters to providing immediate response and long-term recovery services. Without the support, dedication, and expertise of voluntary agencies, the government would be unable to address all the needs of disaster-affected communities.

At the conclusion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Describe the unique strengths that voluntary agencies bring to the emergency management community;
- Identify important historical milestones in the development of voluntary agencies in the U.S.;
- Describe briefly the history of each National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) member agency;
- Identify the roles and services that voluntary agencies provide throughout each phase of the emergency management cycle (i.e., mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery);

DO YOU KNOW?

The National VOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee developed a resource titled:

- A. *The Sun Also Rises***
- B. *Critical Incident Management for the Soul***
- C. *Out of the Darkness***
- D. *God in the Ruins***
- E. *Light Our Way***

- Explain the importance of collaboration and coordination among voluntary agencies and between voluntary agencies and their emergency management partners; and
- Describe the entities (e.g., National Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster, the Donations Coordination Team) that foster government/voluntary agency coordination throughout the emergency management cycle.

The answers to the questions above are E and E!

TGCR VOAD Education Roadmap

All Members are encouraged to take the FEMA Emergency Management Courses. Familiarity with these concepts will help tremendously in our ability to communicate, Cooperate, Collaborate, and Coordinate with each other and the jurisdictions governing the people we serve. We have divided the courses up into quarters representing about 7 hours of work a quarter.

First Quarter

- IS-288.C The Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emergency Management - 1 hour
- IS-100.C Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100 - 2 hours

IS-700.B An Introduction to the National Incident Management System - 3.5 hours

Second Quarter

IS-200.C Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 - 4 hours

IS-800.D National Response Framework, An Introduction - 3 hours

Third Quarter

IS-2900.A National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Overview - 3 hours

IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions – 4 hours.

Harris County's EOC-101,201

Advanced Study

G-191 Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface – 8 hours (in-person)

After Action Review At the Texas Gulf Coast Regional VOAD, we strongly believe in continually learning from each other. We understand that no single member or partner has all the answers, so we encourage our members to participate in an After Action Review (AAR). The AAR helps us improve our ability to communicate, collaborate, coordinate, and cooperate as we respond to the next disaster.

We value the diversity of perspectives and need your participation! We want to recognize and celebrate what went well. We also want to identify and learn from what did not go as planned. Both are important for us to continue to improve and help more people recover faster in the next disaster.

Please take a few minutes to reflect on our response to Winter Storm Gerri. Your responses will be reviewed by the TGCRVOAD Executive Committee and used to drive recognition, training, and innovation in the months ahead.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful answers!

<https://tgcrvoad.org/winter-storm-gerri-aar/>

New Resource!

When we think of the vulnerable community that bears the brunt of economic disruption from a disaster we should also consider the needs to the ALICE community. A new Tool from United for ALICE helps identify these important communities.

from United for Alice: unitedforalice.org

Essential, Working, Struggling

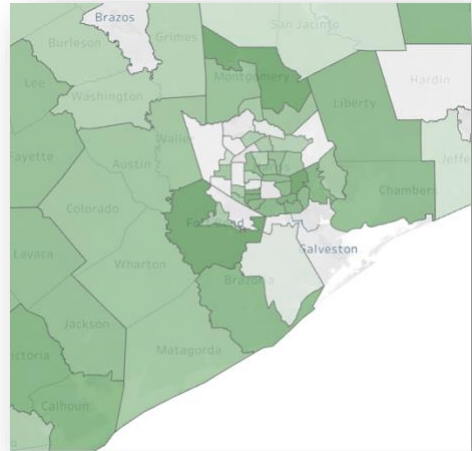
For a growing number of U.S. households, financial stability is nothing more than a pipe dream, no matter how hard their members work. These households are ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – earning above the Federal Poverty Level yet struggling to afford basic expenses.

ALICE households span all races, ages, ethnicities, and abilities, though households of color are disproportionately ALICE; include workers whose wages cannot keep up with the rising cost of goods and services; often include those who are working two or more jobs and still cannot pay their bills; include family members who need care and assistance, which makes it harder for their caregivers to find adequate work; live paycheck to paycheck and are forced to make impossible choices: pay the rent or buy food, receive medical care or pay for child care, pay utility bills or put gas in the car' and are part of every community nationwide.

ALICE households are wage earners who, at their income level, will have difficulty affording basic housing, child care and education, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes.

Find Out More!

There is a [dashboard](#) on the United for Alice website that is helpful for gaining a better understanding of this community. There are four mappings available – work, housing and community and a fourth “Gap” metric which combines all three measures. The gap metric for our area is shown below, highlighting only areas that are below average.



Officers & Chairs

The following officers were elected at our January Annual Meeting

- *Chair (2024-2025) - Gary Flaharty*
- *Vice-Chair (2024) - Rashmi Singh*
- *Secretary (2024-2025) - Andi Cook*

Other Officers and Committee Chairs:

- *Treasurer (2023-2024) - Wayne Beaumier*
- *Chair, Membership and Engagement - Morgan Zeringue*
- *Chair, Individual, Family and Community Resources - Sarah Malcolm*
- *Chair, Education and Training - Amanda Groller*
- *Chair, Operational Collaboration - Debbie Allensworth*
- *Chair, Communications - OPEN*

Invitation

[Join a TGCRVOAD Committee!](#)

All our committees are seeking members. We want all Members to be represented and have a voice in how the TGCRVOAD operates. Do you have anyone in your organization that has a gift in these areas? Please get in touch with the respective committee chair.

COMMUNICATIONS - responsible for the website, newsletter, situational awareness, internal communications, and external communication support. Contact [Gary Flaharty](#).

EDUCATION & TRAINING – responsible for training programs for bi-monthly meetings. Contact [Amanda Groller](#).

INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, & COMMUNITY RESOURCES - responsible for the Membership directory, resources by county, and gap analysis. Contact [Sarah Malcolm](#).

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT - responsible for recruiting Members and Partners and encouraging participation in TGCRVOAD events. Contact [Morgan Zeringue](#).

OPERATIONAL COLLABORATION - support enhancement of Functions in Disaster; interface with the LTRCs. Contact [Debbie Allensworth](#)

STEERING COMMITTEE – Meets six times yearly to advise the Executive Committee; the Executive Committee appoints members to the Steering Committee Contact chair.tgcrvoad@icloud.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Officers and Committee Chairs

Situational Awareness Briefs

The TGCR VOAD is currently at Activation Level 4 – NORMAL OPERATIONS.



- 6 February 2024 – Returning to Level 4 – NORMAL OPERATIONS
- 29 January 2024 – Maintaining Alert Level 2 – STANDBY for Liberty and Montgomery Counties and Returning to Alert Level 4 – NORMAL OPERATIONS in All Other Counties
- 24 January 2024 -- Moving to Alert Level 2 0 STANDBY for Heavy Rainfall and Potential Flooding in Austin, Colorado, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Walker, and Waller Counties
- 23 January 2024 – Moving to Alert Level 3 – SITUATIONAL AWARENESS for Heavy Rainfall and Potential Flooding
- 19 January 2024 – Returning to Alert Level 4 – NORMAL OPERATIONS Following winter Storm Gerri
- 16 January 2024 – Alert Level 1 – ACTIVATED for Winter Storm Gerri
- 14 January 2024 – Setting Alert Level 2 – STANDBY for Winter Storm Gerri
- 11 January 2024 – Maintaining Alert Level 3 - SITUATIONAL AWARENESS for Winter Storm Gerri
- 8 January 2024 Setting Alert Level 3 – SITUATIONAL AWARENESS for Potential Severe Thunderstorms and Tornados (Winter Storm Finn)

Receive all TGCR VOAD Alerts when issued!

**Become a TGCRVOAD Member and
sign up for TGCR VOAD Alerts!**