

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 16, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Carson:

When Hurricane Michael made landfall in Northwest Florida last week, it destroyed communities and uprooted families from their homes. While the people of Florida are resilient, it is vital that the federal government provide as much relief as possible during this time of recovery.

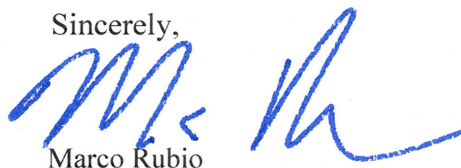
With this in mind, I respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provide statutory and regulatory relief for the use of the Community Planning and Development grant programs, including the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, and Emergency Solutions Grant program, similarly to the relief provided during the 2017 hurricanes.

As you know, these programs make funding available to rehabilitate and improve the safety of properties, provide shelter to individuals with AIDS, and facilitate economic development in low-income communities. Providing regulatory and statutory relief could allow these funds to be expanded for new construction, additional support services, food, clothing, housing, or utility expenses, tenant-based rental assistance and fund dispersal for projects that pose immediate and long-term relief for victims of Hurricane Michael.

Families uprooted from this disaster need our help during this difficult time. It is my hope that providing these regulatory and statutory waivers may serve to ease the financial and physical burden this disaster has had on Florida's communities.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator