



# UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLES



**The mission of Unmet Needs Roundtables is to bring together donors and case work agencies to financially assist those impacted by a disaster, provide emergency assistance, and facilitate victims' long-term recovery in cases when all other means of assistance are no longer available.**

In the aftermath of a disaster, relief workers provide for the basic needs of survivors and victims' families—as a best practice, they also begin to identify emerging unmet needs. Disaster recovery moves in stages from emergency relief, to short-term recovery (up to six months), and finally to long term recovery (years). Unmet Needs Roundtables (also called Unmet Needs Tables or Unmet Needs Committees), commonly used in all federally declared disasters, are essential mechanisms for meeting the unmet basic human needs of survivors and victims' families by providing cash assistance in emergencies or enabling sustainable long-term recovery.

Through Memorandum of Understandings with the NYC Office of Emergency Management and the Human Services Council of New York, NYDIS establishes and manages all Unmet Needs Roundtables in response to any disaster in New York City. NYDIS maintains a tax-exempt **Unmet Needs Fund** where corporations, foundations, and individuals can make donations to a managed fund that provides these donors with grant distribution and usage reports.

Unmet Needs Roundtables include:

- **A MODERATOR** who reaches out to all agencies assisting underserved disaster victims, provides orientation to caseworkers on how to present cases, recruits donors, schedules caseworker presentations, and moderates donor and caseworker review of each confidential case.
- **DONORS**, both individuals and representatives of corporations and foundations, define their criteria for giving cash assistance or vouchers as broadly or specifically as they choose.
- **CASEWORKERS** from a broad spectrum of provider agencies present cases on behalf of victims with unmet material needs, ensuring economic, emotional, and spiritual recovery through all available resources.
- **AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** of representatives from donor and casework agencies offers guidance on emerging unmet needs, oversight of the Roundtable process, and support of the Moderator's work.
- **RESOURCE EXPERTS**, including an immigration lawyer and representatives of core relief agencies, provide information and resources to support the management of cases.
- **UNMETNEEDSROUNDTABLE.ORG** is a secure online client and donor database system that tracks casework, client applications, client demographics, cash assistance grants, and voucher distribution. The database was developed by NYDIS to provide state-of-the-art reports to donors and demographics of emerging unmet needs to the disaster human services recovery community.

## THE TOP 5 MOST FREQUENTLY FUNDED NEEDS:

- **RENT AND MORTGAGE**
- **PERSONAL LOANS** (used to cover basic living expenses)
- **BASIC UTILITIES** (gas/oil, water, electric, and telephone)
- **RELOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE**
- **PRO BONO IMMIGRATION LEGAL CONSULTATION**



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# THE NYC 9/11 UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLE



In 2002, supported by FEMA and the leadership of Lutheran Disaster Response of New York, the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable was established. Since its inception, the Roundtable has distributed over \$7.5 million in cash assistance and vouchers to meet the unmet needs of over 4,600 9/11-impacted persons and their families. Over time, 22 donor agencies and corporations and 92 case management agencies have actively participated in the distribution of this cash assistance for 9/11-impacted persons and their families.

Since 2003, the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable has been administered by NYDIS, which continues to provide valuable cash assistance and recovery resources to 9/11-impacted persons, especially community residents and recovery workers who currently suffer from 9/11-related physical and mental health conditions.

Years after the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, financial need continues to be significant, especially amongst the 9/11 health-impacted population. Despite EPA assurances that the air was safe after 9/11, thousands of World Trade Center rescue, recovery, restoration, and clean-up workers and volunteers, community residents, office/business re-occupants, and area students developed physical and/or mental illnesses directly related to physical and/or psychological exposures at the World Trade Center site. For some 9/11 health-impacted persons, these 9/11-related illnesses cause disability, resulting in loss of work, income, health insurance, and the ability to support themselves and their families.

## DONOR AGENCIES

*as of April 2008*

American Red Cross September 11 Liberty Fund  
God's Love is Needed Now, Inc.  
New York Disaster Interfaith Services  
Orthodox Church in America  
Safe Horizon  
The Robin Hood Foundation

## CASE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

*as of April 2008*

Asociación Tepeyac de New York  
Latin American Workers' Project  
Lutheran Social Services of New York - Project Life  
Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty  
St. Mark's Place Institute for Mental Health



## ROUNDTABLE CONTACT NUMBERS

■ If you have 9/11 health-related issues and would like help **accessing a case manager**, contact:

**New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)**  
**212.669.6100**

■ If you are providing services to 9/11-impacted clients and would like to **present cases at the Roundtable**, contact:

**Roundtable Moderator**  
**212.669.6100**  
**info@nydis.org**

**(A one-time in-service training is required)**

■ If you would like to **make a donation** to support the NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable, contact:

**New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)**  
**212.669.6100**  
**info@nydis.org**

or make a donation at **[www.nydis.org/donate](http://www.nydis.org/donate)**



## NYC KATRINA EVACUEE UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLE

2,700 families evacuated to New York City after Hurricane Katrina, and many had limited or no access to recovery assistance. With the help of members of the Katrina Coordinating Group of NYC, NYDIS spearheaded the establishment of the NYC Katrina Unmet Needs Roundtable to support evacuee families in their long-term recovery. Six donor agencies and three case management agencies participated in the Roundtable, which closed Fall 2007.



## NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES

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