

# **HOUSING RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE: ASSESSING THE CONSTRAINTS AND FACILITATORS OF POST-DISASTER HOUSING RECOVERY IN VULNERABLE COASTAL COMMUNITIES**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Through a comparative study of small coastal communities in North Carolina and Galveston Bay communities in Texas, we aim to identify the federal, state, and local policies, resources, and capabilities that constrain and facilitate housing recovery after disasters. We focused on communities with a population of less than 5,000 people which may lack the resources of larger cities. The research objective is to identify the resources that coastal communities need to more successfully address housing recovery following a major natural disaster. We aimed to answer two fundamental questions: 1) What are the constraints and facilitators of post-disaster housing recovery? 2) What policies, resources, and capabilities are needed to improve housing recovery after a disaster?

In comparing housing recovery in two states with differing state, regional, and local governmental resources and capabilities, we believe our findings will assist public officials, emergency managers, and planners in the development of improved housing recovery plans and the improvement in household-level recovery outcomes. Based on the research results, the research team in collaboration with local leaders will develop a set of best practices that can be implemented. It is the intent of this project to be the start of an ongoing dialogue between the UNC/UHCL team, local communities, and officials at the regional, state, and federal levels.

The presentation represents the preliminary findings of a Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate-funded Summer Research Team Program for Minority Serving Institutions research project, focusing on the results obtained through archival research, review of recovery policies, and the interviewing of federal, state and local officials, and non-profit representatives involved in Hurricane Irene recovery. The results of Hurricane Ike data are still in the process of being collected and analyzed.