



The Black Belt Community Foundation

DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 3 | JANUARY 31, 2023 | FOCUS ON STORM SHELTERS



Storm Shelter Initiative

In 2022, the BBCF awarded non-profit organizations in four Alabama counties \$30,000 each to build storm shelters to serve the residents of their communities. Greene, Hale, Marengo and Pickens counties were the beneficiaries of this donation. In addition, BBCF submitted a state grant application to supplement the Storm Shelter Initiative fund. On August 3, 2022, BBCF was awarded a Governor’s Emergency Relief Fund Grant to provide an additional \$88,000 to their Storm Shelter Initiative in the four counties. The target and priority groups for the shelters will be homeless individuals, residents living in mobile homes and those living in substandard housing. A total of six shelters will be built to accommodate residents who otherwise would be vulnerable to the elements. Shelter foundations have been built and the shelters are scheduled for completion at the end of February 2023.



–BBCF RELIEF RESPONSE– SELMA-WEST ALABAMA TORNADO



On Thursday, January 12, a high-end EF2 tornado caused devastating damage to the city of Selma and numerous counties in West Alabama. In local neighborhoods, the power of the tornado was so forceful that it caused roofs to be lifted off of homes and left communities filled with debris. According to the Associated Press, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey toured Selma in the aftermath and stated, “It was far worse than anything I had envisioned or seen on television. Roofs are just gone and trees look like toothpicks.”

The Black Belt Community Foundation immediately established two funds to support the rebuilding of these communities. To assist Dallas, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, and Sumter Counties, the BBCF established Communities Helping Communities Disaster Relief Fund. In order to help the city of Selma and Dallas County residents, the BBCF set up the Selma Recovery Fund in partnership with Selma Mayor James Perkins. The BBCF encourages individuals, organizations, businesses and others to donate to these funds to bring urgently needed relief to these communities.

To donate to these disaster relief funds, please visit:
blackbeltfound.org/2023-disaster-relief-funds/

TORNADOES MOST DEADLY IN ALABAMA

Research has shown that Alabama’s **high poverty rate**, as well as the prevalence of mobile homes in the state, may be the biggest factors in explaining why Alabama’s tornado death toll keeps climbing.

14

Average # of tornado deaths per year in AL
HIGHEST IN NATION

633

Tornado fatalities in AL between 1950-2016
MOST OF ANY STATE

