



The Black Belt Community Foundation

**DATA IMPACT CENTER**

# The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 19 | AUGUST 28, 2023 | FOCUS ON DISASTER RECOVERY



## CASE MANAGEMENT THROUGH SELMA LTRG

Case management provides a fair and equitable process for the Selma LTRG to distribute resources to individuals and their families. By partnering with Umcor, the national case management organization specializing in disaster response, relief and recovery, the Selma LTRG is able to utilize their well-defined intake process to ensure cases qualify for assistance. Since they began hearing cases in June 2023, the Selma LTRG has heard and funded 14 cases in the amount of \$35,199.43.

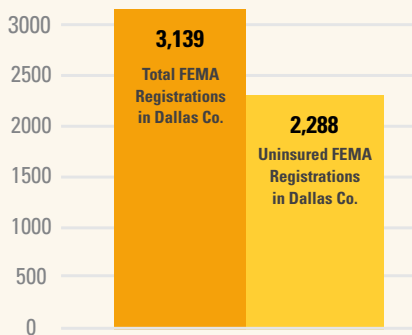


**14**  
CASES



**\$35K**  
FUNDED

To receive assistance from the Selma LTRG, an individual must first apply for FEMA assistance. So far 3,139 FEMA registrations have been received in Dallas County. Of those registrations, 2,288 people had no insurance to cover loss of property and fix damages from the storm - that's 73% of those who applied for FEMA help after the tornado.



## The Selma Long-Term Recovery Group

**A successful recovery is about the ability of individuals and families to rebound from their losses in a manner that sustains their physical, emotional, social and economic well-being.**

The Selma Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), formed following the January 12<sup>th</sup> tornadoes in the Selma - Dallas County area, has embraced this nationally recognized definition of recovery to achieve the best outcomes possible for the local community and its people.

The Selma LTRG is an outgrowth of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), whose national, state, and local teams have over 50 years' experience responding to communities in America following disasters. Using the National VOAD Long Term Recovery Guide, the Selma LTRG has coordinated and is executing local recovery efforts following the most renowned standards of practice, around disaster recovery. With businessman Jay Gilmer serving as chair, the Selma LTRG is comprised of an array of dedicated local leaders from the civic, faith-based, non-profit, and commercial sectors of Selma. The Black Belt Community Foundation's involvement with the Selma LTRG has been led by Chief Community Engagement Officer, Rev. Chris Spencer from the onset. With the BBCF serving as the fiscal agent for the Selma LTRG, transparency is tantamount to success.

The most critical determinant of success for any LTRG is the collaboration between themselves and disaster case management. The Selma LTRG has helped coordinate recovery resources for voluntary agencies in Selma and has also created policies and processes so that disaster case managers, representing local clients, can access those resources as needed by their families. To receive assistance from Selma LTRG, an individual must first apply for FEMA assistance and then be approved through the case management process. The disaster case manager is then able to present cases to the Selma LTRG, which checks each case based on their unmet needs review process. Once a case has qualified for assistance, it goes to the funding phase. "That could be financial, it could be donations of materials. It will be determined based on the need," Gilmer said. Rebuilding will be a long-term process, Gilmer said, hence the name of the committee. While other organizations helped with immediate needs, the committee's work kicks in at the six-month mark and will likely last until the two-year anniversary helping families and individuals get back on their feet.

If you'd like to contribute to the recovery efforts, you can donate through the Selma Recovery Fund which was setup by BBCF in partnership with the City of Selma and 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 the disaster relief funds, please visit:**  
[blackbeltfound.org/2023-disaster-relief-funds/](https://blackbeltfound.org/2023-disaster-relief-funds/)

Sources: [blackbeltnewsnetwork.com/news/06/12/23/](https://blackbeltnewsnetwork.com/news/06/12/23/); National Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (nvoad.org/); Section 4 of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (fema.gov/pdf/recoveryframework/ndrf.pdf - Sept. 2011); [selmasun.com/news/05/11/23](https://selmasun.com/news/05/11/23/)

## Thank you to members of the Selma LTRG for stepping up and helping our community in a time of need!

**Jay Gilmer:** Community Volunteer, LTRG Chairman; **John Grayson:** Pastor, Gospel Tabernacle COGIC & Board Member, Selma Housing Authority, LTRG Vice-Chairman; **Aaron Roper:** COO & Assistant VP of Program Integration, Edmundite Missions; **Chris Spencer:** Chief Community Engagement Officer, Black Belt Community Foundation, LTRG Treasurer; **Miriam Bearden:** Dietician & Board Member, United Way of Selma & Dallas County, LTRG Secretary; **Jeff Cothran:** Executive Director, United Way of Selma & Dallas County; **Lydia Chatmon:** Selma Director of Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation, Black Belt Community Foundation & Program Manager, Selma Center for Nonviolence; **Thiea Wilson:** Pastor, Temple Gate Seventh Day Adventist Church; **Mallory Kelly:** Regional Extension Agent, Alabama Cooperative Extension System; **Sarah Aghedo:** Community Director, Legacy Foundation of Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church; **Leodis Strong:** Pastor, Brown Chapel AME Church; **Steve Burton:** Pastor, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church; **David Daniel, Jr.:** Dallas County Coordinator, Alabama Cooperative Extension System; **Lawrence Wofford:** Selma Chapter President, NAACP & Board Member, Selma Housing Authority; **Aubrey Carter:** Communications Manager, Alabama Power