

Disaster Management During COVID-19 and Beyond



Last week the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s Corporate Citizenship Center held its 9th annual Building Resilience through Private-Public Partnerships Conference. Three key themes emerged on building resilience amid COVID-19 and how we can be better prepared for future emergencies through greater collaboration across sectors.

1. The private sector plays a pivotal role in responding to all disasters, with the COVID-19 crisis underscoring the need to incorporate business into every aspect of disaster management. From supply chain management to providing essential services, the innovation and agility that the private sector brings will continue to be critical. **"A lot of solutions and a lot of the ideas to help us get through this are actually in the private sector’s hands,"** said Jonathan N. Greene, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2. Relationships cultivated before the pandemic have proven to be extremely valuable once the disaster hit. **"We needed to leverage every relationship that we had at the local, state, and federal level,"** said Laura Lane, President, Global Public Affairs, UPS.
3. All sectors need to come together to address the impacts of this crisis on communities of color, and speakers said increasing representation in disaster planning and management is a top priority. **"We are all out at sea in the same storm, but we’re in very different boats,"** said Dr. Jay Butler, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases, CDC.

The U.S. Chamber Foundation will continue to advance disaster relief and response in communities across the globe — a mission that is even more critical at this moment in time. To learn more about how to join our Disaster Response and Community Resilience program, visit [our website](#).

Watch all the sessions from the Building Resilience Conference [here](#).

—Brooks Nelson, Senior Director, Global Resilience, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Citizenship Center