



## KEY PRINCIPLES FOR A SOLUTION TO PUERTO RICO'S RECOVERY

Hurricane Maria's path through the island of Puerto Rico, and its smaller island sisters of Vieques and Culebra, caused widespread devastation, including severe damage to the electrical grid. The lack of electricity is at the center of all problems that the island has felt since September 20<sup>th</sup>. The lack of clean drinking water, the inability of small businesses to operate, the unpredictability of telecommunications, the return to a cash-only economy are all due to massive power outages.

As Congress considers how to appropriately respond to the Island's needs, this document presents concepts as principles for the Island's recovery. Though much more aid can and should be provided, these five principles, at a minimum, are essential for Puerto Rico to have a strong foundation to build out its own economic recovery.

***Permanently Address Healthcare Inequities.*** The U.S. Government, in its obligation to promote the general welfare of its citizens, must work to protect the health and security of their citizens in Puerto Rico, including a permanent fix to the Medicaid funding shortfall.

***Rebuild a Renewable, Clean Energy Grid that Withstands Future Hazards.*** The path to sustainable economic growth must include investments that enable reliable and affordable electricity for businesses and consumers.

***Invest in Resilient Infrastructure.*** Improved building standards and flood resistant reconstruction will greatly reduce the loss of life and property from future inevitable, and unpredictable disasters.

***Provide Puerto Rico the Tools to Jumpstart its Economy.*** The people of Puerto Rico must be assured that its debt will not be a permanent barrier to economic development on Island. Along with a discharge of the debt, any disaster aid must include proven tools to stimulate economic growth.

***Improve Fiscal Transparency and Accountability.*** All stakeholders involved in Puerto Rico's recovery must commit to improved financial transparency and accountability to restore confidence among all parties, prevent fraud and costly gridlocks.

### Congressional Commitment

*"The painful reality is that the road to recovery for the residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands will be long and difficult. Congress will remain fully committed to working with the administration to make certain the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands receive the aid needed to fully recover and rebuild with each other for the long-haul."*

House Speaker Paul Ryan

*"Our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands deserve to know that their government will be there for them, without question or hesitation. Democrats will stand by and fight for the American families whose homes, sense of security and lives have been upended by this heartbreaking disaster"*

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi

*The U.S. Federal Government has a responsibility to help Puerto Rico recover in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.*