In 2017, various natural disasters struck NFJP organizations in many parts of the United States: drought, floods, and wildfires in California; hurricane-related flooding in Texas; Hurricane Irma in Florida; and Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico.

In Part I of this two-part series, "Disaster Preparedness and Response: Serving Farmworkers" NFJP grantees shared their stories on the impact of natural disasters on their respective organizations, on farmworkers, and on agriculture. They shared how they responded to each disaster and what they learned. Specifically:

**Gerald Williams** of the Immokalee Technical College in Florida’s Collier District School System, explained how the public school system served as a practical, efficient hub to keep people safe and cared-for, before and after Hurricane Irma.

**Paul Castro** and **Norma Garcia** of California Human Development (CHD) discussed the area’s recent history with droughts, floods, and wildfires. They described the challenges farmworkers had in obtaining services. Lastly, they shared how robust partnerships are critical in getting people the resources they need.

**Stacey Taylor** of Motivation, Education, & Training (MET) shared how MET’s central offices were inaccessible due to Hurricane Harvey and what this meant for MET in devising an emergency response plan to care for its staff as well as its customers.

**Brenda Colón** and **Albert Rivera** of PathStone, Puerto Rico shared their experiences after Hurricane Maria. They discussed relief efforts, including the delivery of food boxes, water filters, solar lights, and gas stoves; rehabilitating houses; and issuing micro loans and grants to small businesses. They also initiated community assessment surveys which were key to understanding the scope of the devastation and the needs on the island.