



August 11, 2021

Greetings,

As director of the Midwest Early Recovery Fund at the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP), I am providing this letter to support Recovering Oklahomans After Disaster (ROAD).

CDP's Midwest Early Recovery Fund (ERF) provides communities affected by low-attention disasters valuable recovery resources. The Fund supports those most vulnerable to the impact of a natural disaster, so the whole community benefits from a more holistic and robust recovery.

The Fund is utilized to address issues two weeks to eighteen months after natural disasters, including tornadoes, flooding, earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires, in a 10-state region that includes Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota. Our funds, granted for early recovery services, are intended to spark recovery efforts and to encourage the development or engagement of local leaders and community members to ensure that the whole community can recover.

In the wake of recent disasters in Oklahoma, including 2021 winter storms and 2019 floods, ROAD has consistently provided excellent damage assessments, volunteer coordination and project management. Previous to these recent events, the leadership of ROAD have a track record of ensuring that Oklahomans can return home after weather and climate-related disasters.

ERF has been proud to support ROAD with \$140,000 of funding starting in 2019 and continuing through 2021. ROAD has effectively utilized these resources to help hundreds of households with repair needs and has been committed to making sure those with the greatest and least resources find home again. As housing recovery needs continue to exist and grow, it is essential that places like Oklahoma, where weather and climate disasters frequently occur with increasing severity, have an organization like ROAD.

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of ROAD. It is my sincerest hope that you will consider a partnership with ROAD that will lead to additional support for Oklahoman families who are currently waiting for home repairs and those whom future tornados and floods will impact.

Sincerely,

Cari Cullen
Director, Midwest Early Recovery Fund
Center for Disaster Philanthropy