

HHS UPDATE

NTEU National Treasury Employees Union

HHS Refuses to Commit to Emergency Leave Transfer Program

After a major disaster or emergency, NTEU routinely urges the Office of Personnel Management to establish an emergency leave transfer program (ELTP), which allows unaffected federal employees to donate annual leave to adversely affected employees. NTEU then works with agencies to establish the programs for their employees.

NTEU does this because it's the right thing to do. For the most part, agencies comply with NTEU's request to establish ELTPs because they know it's the right thing to do. But in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, HHS singled itself out by refusing to commit to an ELTP to help employees recovering from the storm.

After Dorian destroyed parts of the Bahamas and caused widespread damage in the southern United States, NTEU requested that all our represented agencies, including HHS, establish an ELTP. OPM had authorized the program, and NTEU sent a letter to Secretary Azar strongly supporting this action to assist affected employees in the aftermath of the storm.

In [refusing](#) NTEU's request, HHS stated only that an HHS Senior Advisor "can assure [NTEU] that we will work with our employees and other federal agencies to facilitate the support that we are able to provide."

In other words, HHS refused to follow OPM's determination and NTEU's request to assure employees still recovering from Dorian that leave under an ELTP would be available to them. Once again, HHS management has demonstrated through its actions that it does not value its workforce.

Those employees harmed who were by Hurricane Dorian and denied leave should contact their NTEU chapter president. NTEU is committed to ensuring that employees impacted this storm are not penalized because HHS refuses to recognize the needs of its employees.

Reminder: Practical Guides and Resources Available for HHS Employees

Need help navigating your workplace? NTEU has workplace resources designed just for HHS employees. [Visit our HHS page](#) for free guides on telwork performance plans, performance appraisals and performance feedback.

Did you receive this newsletter from a friend? You can get news directly to your inbox by [signing up](#) for our free newsletter exclusively for HHS bargaining unit employees. What's at stake is too important to not have every HHS employee informed.

"...to ensure that every federal employee is treated with dignity and respect."