

**Sherman Gillums, Jr.**

Director

FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Sherman Gillums Jr., a native of Buffalo, New York, serves as FEMA's disability coordinator and the director of its Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC), located in the agency's Washington D.C. headquarters. In his role, Sherman advises FEMA Administrator Criswell on meeting the agency's commitment to equity in emergency management for people with disabilities, including older adults and others with access and functional needs.

Within seven months of joining FEMA in August 2022, Sherman deployed to response operations for hurricanes Ian and Fiona, deadly tornados in Alabama and Mississippi, and served as the Agency's lead advisor on disability integration after a train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. In March 2023, Sherman released to the FEMA workforce his Director's Intent, "A Guide to Meeting the Disability Integration Mission." The vision focuses on 14 potential points of inequity that can substantially extend the disaster lifecycle for people with disabilities and older adults.

A United States veteran, Sherman joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 17 and served for 12 years before medically retiring at the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2. He holds a graduate degree from the University of San Diego School of Business and completed his executive education at Harvard Business School. He will complete his doctoral studies at the University of Dayton in 2024. Sherman and his wife Tammie, herself a U.S. Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, have two sons, four daughters—including one who is presently a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy—and two granddaughters.