



## Community Resilience Initiative - Inclusive Emergency Management 101

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**Community Resilience:** the ability to anticipate risk, limit impact, and bounce back rapidly through survival, adaptability, evolution, and growth during and after crisis.

**Inclusive Emergency Management:** involves people with disabilities in all stages of planning and provision of disaster-related programs- before, during, and after disasters.

**Disasters:** An event that results in large numbers of deaths and injuries or causes extensive damage or destruction to facilities that provide and sustain human needs.

**Emergencies:** A situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, property, or environment. Minor Emergencies: residential fires; localized chemical spills storm damage (wind, hail, ice). Limited and Potential Emergencies: localized flooding, hurricane warning; drought.

**Emergency and Disaster Declarations:** States request and receive resources from the Federal government to respond to disasters and emergencies.

**FEMA Services & Programs:** Individual Assistance and Public Assistance

**Applying for FEMA Individual Assistance:** <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>;  
By phone 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY **1-800-462-7585**; in person at Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) and in the community.

- **Beware of Question 24:** Be sure to mark that you have a disability and/or require reasonable accommodations.
  - **If you do not, your disability-related needs will NOT be addressed!**
- **Advocacy Needed:** CILs and other disability-led non-profit, and other service providers be included in the “eligible non-profit” list to apply directly for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement.

**Sheltering Responsibility:** Always local or county government; sometimes state

- Locals governments may contract with other entities such as. Red Cross)

[www.disasterstrategies.org](http://www.disasterstrategies.org)  
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### **Civil Rights Obligations are NEVER suspended, including during disasters!**

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); the Olmstead decision, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other laws apply throughout disasters.

**Disaster-related programs and services:** Must not discriminate against people with disabilities. Everyone must have equal access to:

- Notifications, evacuation, sheltering, and at Disaster Recovery Center transportation; exercises; planning meetings
- Communication must be equally effective - sign-language interpreters, Video Relay Interpreting (VRI); electronic material that is available multiple formats

### **Systemic barriers in disaster operations:**

- Institutional bias - the use of blanket waivers to expedite nursing facility placement during a declared disaster or emergency
- Lack of affordable, accessible housing
- Lack of available home and community based services
- Lack of equally available accessible transportation
- Lack of equal access to effective communication and disaster-related services and programs
- Charity organizations charged with civil rights obligations
- Lack of full inclusion of people with disabilities and the whole community at decision making tables

### **Good and Promising Practices: Nothing About Us Without Us!**

- Invite yourself to tables & invite Emergency Planners to your tables!
- Embed yourselves
- Maintain and nurture relationships
- Invite Emergency Management staff to your events
- Conferences and educational events run by the disability community and community stakeholders
- Bake-in Universal Design, modifications and accommodations

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