



Community Resilience Initiative - The Hard Truths People Need To Know FAQ Sheet

Question 1: What are some personal preparedness tips you use or share with your consumers?

Your Answers 1:

- Develop a plan that's specific to you, not all plans are the same.
- Develop a personal network.
- As a father of two kids, going on trips or home we always ensure we have a first aid kit.
- Keep phone charged, check news and weather regularly, extra food, lots of blankets, flashlights and batteries for them.
- Blankets, water and other survival items in cars.
- Solar chargers for phones.
- Have important phone numbers written on a card or paper don't always rely on having access to your contacts saved in your phone.
 - Keep paper information in a safe/dry place (laminated papers, plastic bags/bins)
- Be prepared for communications to go out and have alternative plans for how to touch base with your network.
- Maintain and sustain supplies and equipment.

Question 2: Do you know what your local Red Cross Chapter provides?

Your Answers 2:

- They provide hotel vouchers for people who have lost their houses/apartments due to fires.
- The Red Cross roles are in our Emergency Management Plan.
- Find and connect with your local Red Cross Chapter here:
<https://www.redcross.org/local/colorado/about-us/Locations.html>

Question 3: How can your CIL begin to or continue planning for disasters?

Your Answers 3:

- Leveraging partnerships to collectively address areas of inequity, especially on access to vaccinations.

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Question 4: Have you had expectations or assumptions that were not met in a disaster?

Your Answers 4:

- During the 2013 floods, people were evacuated from flood areas during the middle of the night and their mobility devices were not included in the 'rescue'.
- Our last OEM team did not include us at all. The current one wants us present for exercises, etc. COVID has put a wrench on that and it is an interesting conflict.
- Local press conference following the boulder shooting did not include an interpreter. Neither did Capitol shooting.
- After hurricane Katrina, my mom received \$10 per square foot of her home.
- We were told to evacuate (being deaf, last to know) but when we arrived at "designated shelter" there was a first responder standing out there telling drivers where the re-direction was supposed to go. I didn't understand him, nor did he have any pre-printed materials/map show where to go. shushed me away because other cars were waiting.
- Drive ups are also not accessible to homeless people or people who do not drive.

Question 5: What issues have you previously advocated to your government (local, state, tribal, federal) and private sector? What will you advocate for now?

Your Answers 5:

- I always shared my truth when I spoke at City Council or County Commission. They trust me now.
- I believe, but do not know first hand, that the Colorado Springs Independence Center took action against their Sheriff after the Waldo Canyon fire, etc.
- ASL interpreters and captioning at press conferences and public service announcements.



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Question 6: How has/can your CIL be a convener and assume a leadership role?

Your Answers 6:

- Having representation at the planning table.
- Atlantis organized numerous meetings and community engagement specifically related to vaccines. We try to be innovative.
- Atlantis participates in the monthly meetings with Sadie Martinez.
- Boulder County created outreach efforts post flood to include communities of people of color and this group has been instrumental for creating vaccination clinics for all marginalized.

Question 7: How can your CIL play a role in negotiations?

Your Answers 7:

- Well, this is a real problem. You have emergency responders who are doing triage. People with existing disabilities are somehow categorized as lost. Also People with Disabilities do not live in a zip code.
- I live in Pueblo which has a CIL and it does a good job in many areas, but I don't hear about them from others. I am part of our ADA Committee and an advocate with CCDC. We could do a lot more with marginalized communities but I don't have enough time or energy. I am supporting our indigenous group to bring down the statue of Columbus. Next step, call for their membership on our committees.
- Educating and advocating against registries for people with disabilities during disasters and emergencies *Note: registries give false hope and do not work.*

Question 8: Have you been successful diverting people from and transitioning people out of congregate settings?

Your Answers 8:

- Atlantis is doing a pilot program to move people out of nursing homes into hotels while we find housing and set up services.
- Atlantis partners with an organization that supports people experiencing homelessness to become employed to provide services and also find housing.

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