



Community Resilience Initiative - Inclusive Emergency Management 101

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 TTY1-800-462-7585; 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 American Red Cross)

Civil Rights Obligations are NEVER suspended, including during disasters!

www.disasterstrategies.org
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- 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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