



Community Resilience Initiative - The Hard Truths Staff Need To Know

People with disabilities are 2 - 4 times more likely than people without disabilities to die or be injured in a disaster.¹

During disasters:

- People without previous disabilities may acquire disabilities
- People with pre-existing disabilities may acquire new disabilities and pre-existing disabilities may become more significant
- It is unknown what disabilities are likely to occur months/years after COVID-19

Why are disabled people more likely to die or be injured due to COVID-19?:

- Left behind — not included in policy and planning
- Lack of equal access to disaster services
- Institutional bias
 - Being institutionalized already
 - Becoming institutionalized
 - Society facilitating institutionalization

56 percent of all COVID-19 deaths in Washington were tied to a long-term care facility²

Personal Preparedness has Limitations:

- Personal preparedness must be accompanied by systemic planning by local, county, state, tribal, and federal government
- Government planning should assume people with disabilities have not done personal planning.
- It's not individuals' obligation to prepare - it's the government's responsibility to plan with, and for, to keep community members safe and respond to disasters

¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/issues/whs.html>

² <http://komonews.com/news/coronavirus/new-state-report-says-over-half-of-washingtons-covid-19-deaths-tied-to-nursing-homes>



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Lack of Planning Leads to Lack of Equal Access During Disasters:

- Current disaster planning efforts are *not* inclusive
- Notifications may not:
 - Be accessible for people that are Deaf / Hard of Hearing / Deafblind
 - Provide real-time caption and/or sign language on screen during notification / press conferences
- Shelters may not:
 - Be physically accessible (i.e. entrance, bathroom, showers, dining area)
 - Have a plan to provide equally effective communication to Deaf / Hard of Hearing / Deafblind / people with visual disabilities
 - Admit service animals
 - Have quiet areas
- Distribution points:
 - People with disabilities not having access to transportation

Getting to the Table and Optimizing Outcomes:

- Use your advocacy skills
- Keep in mind: just because you may be at the table, doesn't mean you aren't on the menu
- Take up space and demand your voice be heard
- Ask yourself who isn't at the table? Why?
- Be persistent!

Roles of CIL's During our New Reality:

- Convene
- Lead: \assume a local leadership role
- Navigate and negotiate
- Collaborate
- Plan
- Transition
- Amplify
- Educate consumers/participants/public
- Demand accountability

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