Thank you, Shaylin and
Melissa, for joining us.

Shaylin is a co-director with German,

and Melissa is the
Director of Public Policy

at The Partnership for
Inclusive Disaster Strategies,

which is an organization that prioritizes

equity and inclusion for
people with disabilities

before, during, and after
disasters and emergencies.

They will will be doing a training today

which will be an inclusive management,

inclusive emergency
management crash course,

and two other trainings
with staff and consumers

on how to prepare for and
recover from a natural disaster.

The two other trainings are
called "Disaster Rights," no.

"Disability Rights in
Disasters," I'm sorry about that,

and "Personal Disaster Preparedness."

As Christine mentioned
in our all staff meeting,

I will be sending over
a Doodle later today

that will help compile a date and time

that works best for most
of you and your consumers.

Thank you.

- This is Shaylin.

Thank you, Lily, for that introduction.

Some of the information I
might go over in just a moment

might be a tiny bit repetitive,

but then everyone will
really know who we are.

So thank you for that, Lily,

and thank you to everyone
at CIL of South Florida

for having us for these trainings

and for the ongoing work and support

that we'll be providing
throughout the year.

So we are excited to continue
to work with you all.

My name is Shaylin
Sluzalis, as Lily mentioned.

I use she/her pronouns and
as Lily also mentioned,

I'm one of the co-executive directors

of The Partnership for
Inclusive Disaster Strategies.

And we also go by the name,
The Partnership in short,

as we know that can be quite a mouthful.

And welcome and thank you for joining us

for our first training titled

"Inclusive Emergency
Management Crash Course:

What CIL of South Florida Needs to Know."

On this slide here, we have the title

that I just read to you as
well as The Partnership's logo,

which has a sun with four
icons in the center of it

of a hurricane, a thunderstorm cloud,

a house with a crack down the middle,

and a tornado with the words

The Partnership for
Inclusive Disaster Strategies

on the right hand side.

And below all of this text is our website,

which is www.disasterstrategies.org.

A couple accessibility reminders
as we get started today.

As we all know, this
training's being recorded

and an archive of the presentation

will be available in the weeks to come,

and we will keep you all posted on that.

We'll be able to get
the slides to you sooner

than the full recording as we put it

in a accessible format for distribution

and for your future use.

And also, as you all know, we
have Zoom captions available

and we also have, as
folks may have seen me

join an Otter.ai, which is
a different caption service

that just is a tiny bit more accurate

and allows you to open Zoom
in a separate Zoom screen.

I'll get that in the chat for folks

as soon as I can find the
chat button. (chuckles)

All right.

And as of course folks know,

we have ASL interpreter Liliani,

I think I said that right, I hope,

and she is spotlighted for everybody.

And to adjust the size of your slides

and speakers' interpreters in the Zoom,

you can drag the bar that
is in between the slides

and the images on the right hand side,

and you can either move
that from right to left

to have a larger view
of your Zoom screens.

And since we do have
folks spotlighted today,

you can also change
your view screen in Zoom

by clicking the view button
at the top right hand corner

of your Zoom screen.

And if you click speaker,

it will just put the few
people that are spotlighted,

which is the ASL interpreter

and the speaker at the
moment next to the slides.

You can pick gallery to
see more of the images

or cameras that are on in the Zoom room.

For some reminders around participation,

we always encourage questions,
comments, and interactions,

so please don't hesitate to
put your questions in the chat

or raise your hand.

We ask that when you respond to questions,

you can use the raise your
hand button, type in chat,

or unmute and talk at
your appropriate times.

We will have sections that
have time for questions,

but we really like to hear your questions

as they come to you and we
don't want you to forget them.

So please write 'em down or let us know

so that we can address them.

And if we don't have time to
address all questions today,

or if we don't have specific
answers for certain questions,

we will be sure to get back to
you following the trainings.

And for any technical assistance,

please alert us to them in the chat

or raise your hand or let us know.

For instance, we do talk a bit fast,

so please don't hesitate to
let us know to slow down.

And if the chat is not accessible to you,

you can email our
colleague Priya, P-R-I-Y-A,

@disasterstrategies.org,

and I'll also add another
email in the chat for folks

if that's more accessible for everyone.

Also, as we get into
conversation and questions,

we just ask that you identify yourself

before speaking every time,

meaning "This is Shaylin,"
and saying your comment.

Please try to avoid speaking over others

or while others are speaking,

try to keep yourself on
mute when not talking

to avoid background noise,

and please try to avoid using acronyms

and spelling them out
would be very helpful

for all of us in continued learning.

So with that, I will pass
it over to Melissa Marshall,

who will be our main trainer today

and I'll be here supporting.

Thank you all again so much for today

and our ongoing work together.

We're looking forward
to working with you all.

Off to you, Melissa.

- Thank you, Shaylin, and I
am delighted to be here today

on what I'm hoping is a
lovely sunny day in Florida.

I look out my window,
it snowed last night.

It's kinda pretty, but it's
still kinda gray and chilly.

So, welcome.

My name is Melissa Marshall
and I am an older white woman

with long gray, shoulder-length gray hair

and I'm wearing glasses
and a black and white

large checked cardigan today.

And it's great to be here.

Next, please.

So, we were introduced,

and thank you so much for
the lovely introduction.

Just gonna go over some of the details.

We're The Partnership for
Inclusive Disaster Strategies,

and The Partnership is the only U.S.

disability-led organization
with a focused mission

on equity for people with disabilities

and people with access
and functional needs

throughout planning,
programs, services, procedures

before, during, and after disasters.

Please consider us your
disability disaster hub.

Like Shaylin said, we're excited
to be here working with you

and we'll be providing trainings
and support throughout.

And I am just going to take a minute.

If we could go to the next slide,

I'm going to take a minute
to adjust something here.

Hold on.

Sorry about this.

Thank you.

I had a similar presentation.

I was accidentally in the wrong one.

I'm going, "That doesn't look right."

Okay, thank you so much.

Okay, so anyway, we wanna
make some group agreements,

and that's please
maintain confidentiality.

What I mean by that is
we're all professionals,

we know what confidentiality is.

Please don't give specific circumstance,

specific names, those kinds of things.

We all know that, but we just
kinda need to say it out loud.

And as Shaylin said, ask questions.

If you have a question,
somebody else in the room

might have a question,
or they might have it

when they leave the office today.

Just think of all your questions
so you don't forget them,

please ask us all your
questions and have fun.

That's probably the most
important rule here.

And the work we do is very, very serious.

Sometimes it's life or death.

Disasters are very serious.

We all know that and we recognize that.

We don't mean to trivialize that,

but at the same time we find it valuable

to sometimes take ourselves,
not our situations,

but ourselves a little bit less seriously.

So to facilitate you having fun,

I have with me virtual fabulous prizes.

Now, if I was there in person,
I would bring little prizes

that you might get at a
child's birthday party,

that you get in the grocery
store, that kind of thing,

but today I'm gonna give you

made-up virtual fabulous prizes.

So in the spirit of that,
have fun, ask questions,

don't be afraid to laugh,

and maintain confidentiality, please.

So, our goals for you today is to help you

build your confidence in understanding

how to utilize disaster-related
terms and concepts,

we're gonna spend a lotta time on that,

how to maintain or secure your seat

at the emergency management tables,

and a couple of foundational
disability rights principles.

We're not gonna go into disability
rights a whole lot today,

as much as I'd like to, it's
one of my favorite things,

but we have a whole
training on that coming up

and I can't wait to be
doing that for you next.

So I'm excited about that.

This is a lotta material today,

so if you feel a little
overwhelmed, that's what we expect.

You're not different, you're
not overwhelmed unnecessarily.

It's a lotta material we're giving you.

This is recorded and
you'll also have the slide,

so you have a lot of background

and you'll have some
time to think about it.

We're gonna be taking a 10-minute break

a little more than halfway through.

So a break will be coming.

Next, please.

Now, y'all know this.

And again, these are things we need to say

to give us a framework, but
extreme heat is increasing.

And you know this 'cause
you live in Florida.

That's why you know this.

Not everyone in every state knows this.

In the U.S. where climate change
was the largest in Florida,

ding, ding, ding, Florida,

more than 244 million
people felt greater heat

due to climate change during
July, this is July of 2023.

And when you think of a lot
of disasters and who's killed

in what disasters and how
many lives are sadly lost,

we tend not to think of extreme heat.

But extreme heat kills
more people per year

than any other weather event.

I did not know that until
I found this information.

Next, please.

Disasters are increasing.

Climate change is making
Florida even hotter,

increasing the risk of what's
called wet-bulb temperatures

and humidity levels beyond
the human body's endurance.

A hotter planet also raises the risk

of even more catastrophic hurricanes.

Warmer air and water tend
to make storms bigger,

stronger, and wetter, and
therefore more destructive.

Now, if you haven't heard of
the wet-bulb globe temperature,

it's a measure of heat stress
that in direct sunlight,

which takes into account
temperature, humidity,

wind speed, and cloud cover.

And this is different from the heat index,

which just looks at,
it just looks at heat.

It doesn't look at the sun angle,

and it doesn't look at wind speed.

Or yeah, it does look at wind speed.

Sorry about that.

Next, please.

And there's a disproportionate impact

of disasters on people with disabilities.

People with disabilities are
two to four times more likely

to die or be injured in a
disaster than non-disabled people.

Plus, we always have to
look at intersectionality,

the framework that when
people are a member

of more than one oppressed
class they receive,

are subject to more
discrimination, more oppression.

During Hurricane Katrina,

Black people were 1.7
to 4 times more likely

to die than white people.

That's huge. That's huge.

That's terrible.

Next, please.

Community resilience is
the ability to bounce back.

Whole community inclusion
requires full commitment

to universal design, equal access,

and accommodations and
modifications as needed.

So when the whole community
is gonna come back,

they gotta include us,

they gotta include
people with disabilities.

Next, please.

It's gotta include
people with disabilities,

community resilience.

It has to include people with
access and functional needs.

We're gonna talk about that next.

And all community stakeholders

and other marginalized communities

have to participate and be included,

and there has to be accessible planning,

response, and recovery.

Next, please.

- Sure.
- Thank you.

Inclusive emergency management
requires involvement

in leadership of people with
disabilities in all stages

of planning and provision
of disaster-related programs

before, during, and after disasters.

Next.

So now I'm gonna go to some
key concepts and terms.

And like I said, this is a lot.

It might feel overwhelming.

We'll break it down.

You'll have time to look at the slides.

You can rerecord this and you
can always ask us questions

during this training
or after this training.

Next.

Next, please.

Thank you. Sorry.

So why is it important for
you to learn all this stuff?

For your credibility.

You need to be able to
speak the same language

as emergency management professionals.

You know how when someone's at a table

and they use the air quotes
wrong word around disability

and how you feel about that
person using that wrong word?

I try not to be biased against
someone using the wrong word,

and I try to work to stay open,

but I have to work hard to do that.

You don't wanna be the person

at the emergency management
table using the wrong word.

And if you do, it's also okay
to ask them and ask for help.

Just like it's okay if someone
in the disability community

says, "What's the right word?"

Next, please.

Access and functional needs
are individual circumstances

requiring assistance, accommodation,

a modification from
ability, communication,

transportation, safety,
health maintenance, et cetera,

due to any temporary
or permanent situation

that limits an individual's ability

to take an action in an emergency.

That's a quote from FEMA.

Some of the wording I
would word differently,

but they didn't ask me, and that's okay.

So that's what access
and functional needs is.

Now, okay, what does that mean?

We'll go to the next slide
and take a look at it.

In addition to people with disabilities,

people with access and functional needs

include people who are
marginalized, stigmatized,

or excluded, older adults,

individuals with limited
language proficiency

or low literacy, people with temporary

and chronic health conditions,

pregnant people, people
experiencing homelessness,

and individuals with limited
access to transportation

or financial resources to prepare for,

respond to, and recover from disaster.

Next, please.

Okay, so what else do I mean

by this access and
functional needs concept?

It's important to get this
right 'cause almost nobody does.

They use it interchangeably
with disability

and it's not correct.

In emergency management lingo,

people with disabilities
are a category of people

with access and functional needs.

So I have a disability, I
didn't mention that earlier,

by the way, I have cerebral
palsy, I'm a scooter user,

and I've been a disability
rights activist my whole life,

and I've been working in
emergency management since 2017.

Just giving you some more background.

So I have a disability, I'm
in the category of people

with access and functional needs.

You got that? It's a subset.

People with disabilities are members

of a legally protected class, though,

under the ADA and the Rehab Act.

So I'm protected.

People with disabilities are
all protected under the ADA

and the Rehabilitation Act.

People with disabilities have rights

that people with access and
functional needs don't have.

So, if I am someone who's
experiencing homelessness

or I'm an older adult
without a disability,

I'm houseless and I'm experiencing that

and I don't have a disability,

I'm not protected under the ADA and 504.

That's just something
to remember and to know.

Also, you can have a
disability, obviously,

and have other access
and functional needs.

Next, please.

Classifications of
emergencies and disasters.

Emergency managers further
classify emergencies

and disasters by size, type,

and number of issues
that might be addressed.

This is where you just wanna
know their lingo a little bit.

There's things called minor emergencies,

limited and potential
emergencies, and major disasters.

I'm gonna take a look at
those things right now.

Next slide. Thank you.

Now, a minor emergency,

could be when your kid is screaming

but nothing bad has happened,

but it's actually technically
and those are serious things,

but you know, it includes
residential fires,

localized chemical spills,

and wind damage from things
like hail, et cetera.

You may not be getting hail,
but you know, wind damage,

chemical spills, residential fires.

Next, please.

Other limited and potential emergencies

include localized flooding,
you know about that,

extreme heat, you know
about that, and drought.

They're usually small-scale
localized incidents

which are resolved quickly
using local resources.

So, when I say minor emergencies,

I don't mean it's not devastating
for the people involved,

it's not devastating for
individuals and families.

I mean that the state and local government

can respond to it.

Just wanna be clear.

Next, please.

Now a disaster on the other hand,

is an event that results in large numbers

of deaths and injuries,
it causes extensive damage

or destruction of facilities that provide

and sustain human needs,

and it provides an overwhelming demand

on state/local response
resources and mechanisms.

So the demand is overwhelming

on the state and local resources.

Next, please.

A disaster causes severe long-term effect

on general economic activity,

and it severely affects state, local,

private sector capabilities
to begin to sustain

or respond to activities.

So locally you can't
handle it on your own,

whether it be financially
or in other ways.

Next, please.

Major disasters include
large scale flooding,

wildfires, earthquakes, tsunamis.

Next, please.

One you're all too
familiar with, hurricanes,

tropical storms, tornadoes,
floods, and wildfires.

And a declaration, so you say,

"When is a declaration
declared and what does it mean

and how does it happen and what is it?"

We're gonna explain that to you.

When there's declaration,

the governor or tribal chief executives

must request a disaster
declaration from the president.

Next, please.

I'm sorry, what I was saying
was a disaster declaration.

It's all declarations.

I meant emergency and
disaster declaration.

I misspoke. I apologize.

So emergency declaration supplements state

or local Indian tribal government efforts

in providing emergency services

such as protection of lives, property,

public health, and safety,

or to lessen or avert the
threat of a catastrophe

in any part of the United States.

So that's for an emergency
declaration, okay?

Next.

What an emergency declaration does

is it allows federal assistance
to come into the state,

and it usually occurs before the event.

The types of available assistance

with an emergency declaration is limited.

It only gives assistance to the state,

no assistance to individuals.

It provides for evacuation often,

so it's done before the disaster strikes.

Next, please.

Major disaster declaration
must find damage

of such severity that it's
beyond the combined capabilities

of state and local governments to respond.

A major disaster declaration
provides a wide range

of federal programs for individuals

and public infrastructure,

including funds for both
emergency and permanent work.

So they've gotta find those things

in order to say that it's a
disaster, it's a major disaster.

So governor's gotta request it,

they've gotta make these findings.

So what does it do?

Next, please.

The assistance available when
a major disaster is declared.

Federal assistance is
based on what is requested

by the governor or the
chief tribal executive

in the shared or identified needs.

So when a major disaster is declared,

not necessarily all programs
are activated or declared.

The governor or the chief tribal executive

has to ask for it.

You might say, "Well, why
don't they ask for it?

Why don't they ask for it always?"

Well, sometimes they
think they don't need it

because they might not need it.

And sometimes they might be hesitant

because there's a cost share.

Typically it's a 75-25 cost share.

The federal government pays 75%,

whereas the local and the state pays 25%.

Next slide, please.

Questions!

I'm gonna ask Shaylin to scan the chat

and tell me if there's
any questions in the chat.

I can see some.

- This is Shaylin.

Sorry, I seemed to have
lost my little chat.

- I found mine, though, so.

- I'm gonna...

- Hey, it's Neil here.

So I have a question.

How are these declarations,

like you said it's before an event,

but how would that work if it's
like a wildfire or a flood?

Like you might not necessarily know

when that's gonna happen.

(both speaking at once)

- I don't know if I'm expressing

it well.
- Oh sorry.

- I'm so sorry.
- Sorry, I don't know

if it's coming across clearly.

- No, that comes across clearly.

You can just go for major
disaster declaration.

You don't have to go for an
emergency declaration first,

but you can.

So in a notice event like a hurricane,

you can go for the emergency event

because you're evacuating,
you're planning that,

but a wildfire, something
that's just there,

poof, a tornado that's just there,

you can just go for disaster.

- And this is Shaylin.

Part of, you know, the
whole sort of purpose

behind disaster declarations
is to support a state

or a government once they've
exceeded their capacity.

So they've exceeded their resources

or they think they're going
to exceed their resources,

so they either declare
an emergency declaration

ahead of time if they
have that notice to do so.

Like you said, not every
disaster has that notice.

And then once an event
happens, then they can just,

as Melissa was saying, create
a disaster declaration,

a major declaration.

- Right.

It turns on whether or not
the resources are stretched

beyond their capacity.

(both speaking at once)

- Thank you.

- And you get a neon green super ball

as your fabulous prize.

So imagine you have one of
those to play with today.

- Ooh. (laughs) Thank you.

- I have a quick question.

- Mm-hmm. Sure.

- How long before, like, a hurricane

do they have to declare a declaration?

- A declaration is gonna
happen once the hurricane

has started and it's
done so much destruction

that the state doesn't have the money,

the wherewithal, the
people power to meet it.

- This is Shaylin.

But a lot of times we see
declarations happen for hurricanes

after they've occurred

because they have to assess the damage.

- Right. Right.

Exactly, but I'm saying
it's not gonna be before.

- Okay.
- Okay?

And you get a green dragon water squirter.

Just a little one, a mini one.

You can't do too much damage
in the office with it.

That's your fabulous prize.

Other questions?

If not, we'll go on,

and you can always ask
questions throughout.

Next, please, Shaylin.

We're gonna look at emergency frameworks

and structures right now.

Emergency management
frameworks and structures.

There are national planning
frameworks and this helps you.

These are some of the
key terms and concepts

we want you to leave with today,

I want you to have an idea about.

You don't have to memorize
them or have them memorized.

We wanna introduce you to these things

if you're not familiar with them already.

First thing is the national
planning frameworks.

The national planning frameworks describe

how the community works together

to achieve the National Preparedness Goal.

Did you know there's a
National Preparedness Goal?

The goal is a secure and resilient nation

with the capabilities required
across the whole community

to prevent, protect against,
mitigate, respond to,

and recover from the threats and hazards

that pose the greatest risk.

The goal is the cornerstone
for the implementation

of the National Preparedness System.

There's five mission areas within that.

They're prevention, protection,

mitigation, response, and recovery.

Next slide.

The National Incident
Management System, called NIMS,

guides all levels of government,

non-governmental organizations,
they call us NGOs,

which basically means nonprofits,

and the private sector to
work together to prevent,

protect against, mitigate, respond to,

and recover from incidents.

It provides stakeholders
across the whole community

with a shared vocabulary.

See, this is giving us the
same vocabulary as them

and that was part of the purpose of it.

Systems and processes
to successfully deliver

the capabilities described

in the National Preparedness System.

Next, please.

Now, from NIMS comes ESFs.

ESF stands for Emergency
Support Functions.

Emergency Support Functions
provide the structure

for coordinating federal
inter-agency support

for a federal response to an incident.

It describes the federal
coordinating structures,

the group resources and capabilities,

into functional needs,
areas most frequently needed

for national response.

So those are ESFs.

Well, we're gonna give
you examples of ESFs.

ESFs are basically categories.

Next, please.

ESFs, Emergency Support Functions,

provide state to state support
or federal to state support.

That's why they wanna have
some of them be (indistinct).

This is 15 Emergency Support
Functions, and Florida has 20.

We're gonna go through those in a minute.

But ESFs, Emergency Support Functions,

are just a way of grouping things.

And I think the best way to show you

is to give you an example.

Next, please, for examples of all of them.

And I'm gonna read them
for access purposes.

And this is a Florida ESF snapshot.

So Emergency Support Function
number 1 is transportation,

number 2 is communications,

3 is public works,

4 is firefighting,

5 is information and planning,

6 is mass care,

7 is resource support,

8 is health and medical,

9 is search and rescue,

10 is hazmat,

11 is food and water,

12 is energy,

13 is military support,

14 is public information,

15 is volunteers and donations.

And now we're going to
the Florida-unique ones,

which is ESF 16, which is law enforcement,

17, which is animal protection,

18, which is business, industry
and economic stability,

19, which is fuels, and
20, which is cybersecurity.

So that's the buckets
they put things into.

And we're gonna talk about two of those.

(viewer chattering)

Question?

Okay, if we can go to the next slide.

So those are the buckets
they put them into.

And there are gaps in the
Emergency Support Functions.

Even though there's 15 of them federally

and 20 of them in Florida,
there's still gaps.

Emergency management is
often inherently exclusive

of the rights of the needs
of people with disabilities.

They don't include us.

There's a gap in what people
with disabilities need

that none of the ESFs cover,

and there's inadequate
communication between the ESFs.

These gaps can lead to
institutionalization

of disabled people, so we wanna be really,

really aware of 'em.

Next.

And two of the ESFs
that we work with a lot,

and you work with a lot,
are ESF 6 and ESF 8.

We're gonna talk about ESF 6 right now.

It coordinates delivery
of federal mass care,

emergency assistance, housing,

and human services when local,
tribal, and state response

and recovery needs
exceeds the capabilities.

What does that mean?

ESF 6 includes mass care,
emergency assistance,

housing, and human services.

So it's that stuff.

Mass care, which includes sheltering,

those kinds of things,
housing, human services.

Next one we deal with a lot in emergencies

and disasters is emergency support.

Oh, sorry.

Is Emergency Support Function 8.

Emergency Support Function
8 provides planning

and coordination of federal public health,

healthcare delivery, and
emergency response systems

to minimize and prevent health
emergencies from occurring.

It looks to detect and
characterize health incidents,

provide medical care and human
services to those affected,

reduce the public health
and human services effects

on the community, and
enhance community resiliency

to respond in the disaster.

That's ESF 8, Emergency
Support Function 8.

So those two, there's
gaps between those two.

And we talk a lot about how ESF 6,

which is human services,
mass care, that stuff,

and ESF 8, which is more medical,

don't communicate with each other

and there's lots of gaps and holes there.

And people with disabilities
can be put at risk,

and our rights get violated there,

and worst case scenario,
we end up in institutions

or you know, and have our health worsened.

Next, please.

So whose responsibility is sheltering?

It's always the county
or local government.

Sometimes it's the state as well.

Local governments might
contract with other entities

such as Red Cross or CD Maguire,

which is contracting for these things,

and sometimes county manages the shelters

and other entities like Red
Cross Supplemental Services.

Pop-up shelters like faith-based shelters

and community or other
shelters come up as well.

Next, please.

Questions on any or all of this?

Give you a minute to, you can
yell out your questions, too.

You can raise your hands,

you can say what your question is,

you can type it in the chat.

Or you can hold it till later.

But we encourage you to ask it now.

You see any questions, Shaylin?

- I'm not seeing anything in the chat.

- Okay, I'm gonna go on to FEMA

because we have a lot of
content to get through.

So will you go to the next slide, please?

And we're gonna talk about
FEMA programs and services.

You live in Florida, so
you all know about FEMA.

FEMA programs and services
are Public Assistance, PA,

it's called PA, Individual Assistance, IA,

or hazardous mitigation
assistance, called HMA.

We're gonna talk about
each of these right now.

Next, please.

Public Assistance.

FEMA has a Public Assistance
Program and Policy Guide,

affectionately referred to as Papa G.

In Papa G, it says that FEMA provides

supplemental federal grant
assistance for debris removal,

emergency protective measures,

and the restoration of disaster damage,

publicly owned facilities,
and specific facilities

of certain private nonprofit organizations

through the Public Assistance Program.

Next, please.

Public Assistance is broken
down into two categories.

Debris removal, where
the take away debris,

all the stuff that's
fallen in the hurricane

or damaged or destroyed,
you know, on the streets,

debris removal, and category B,

which is emergency protective measures.

Next, please.

Category B is really important

and is more complicated
than just debris removal.

Category B, emergency protective measures

are conducted before,
during, and after an incident

are eligible if the measures eliminate

or lessen immediate threats to lives,

public health, or safety,

eliminate or lessen immediate threats

to significant additional damage

to improve public or private property

in a cost effective manner.

Next, please.

And eligible emergency protective measures

and costs include but are not limited

to transportation and
prepositioning equipment

and other resources for response,

supplies and commodities,
medical care transport,

and evacuation and sheltering.

Next, please.

Eligible emergency protective
measures and costs include,

again, but aren't limited to use or lease

of temporary generators for facilities

that provide essential community services,

and dissemination of
information to the public

to provide warnings and guidance

about health and safety hazards

using various strategies such as flyers,

public service and announcements,
or newspaper campaigns.

Next, please.

Now here's the interesting part for CILs.

This is the part to focus on.

CILS have gotten FEMA

Public Assistance
Category B reimbursement.

It requires an MOU

with the County and
Emergency Management Agency.

And there's a resource in here,

FEMA PA Cat B Reimbursement
Training and Materials

to the Florida IL network.

And we can work with
you on this as we work

with you throughout this period of time.

So we are really excited about this.

So that is good news.

There are hoops.

It is not easy. It takes a lot.

We're not saying it's a
lotta fun, but it is doable.

And hopefully it's getting more doable.

Next, please.

So that's Public Assistance.

Let's look at Individual Assistance.

Individual Assistance is
services to individuals

and households and
includes temporary housing,

crisis counseling, disaster
management, legal services,

and unemployment assistance
on a small level,

unemployment assistance
and legal services.

Next, please.

So who is eligible for
Individual Assistance?

It's for households who sustained
losses due to disasters.

The applicant must be a
U.S. citizen, non-citizen,

or, and I apologize for this word.

I consider this word a slur,
but it's the FEMA language,

a qualified alien.

So a citizen, non-citizen national,

or qualified alien in air quotes.

FEMA must be able to verify
the applicant's identity.

The applicant's insurance or other forms

of disaster assistance received

cannot meet their disaster-caused needs,

and the applicant's necessary expenses

and serious needs are
directly caused by disaster.

They have to be caused by disaster.

Next, please.

Finally, Hazard Mitigation
Assistance, or HMA.

It's funding programs such as
Flood Mitigation Assistance

to protect their lives and properties

from future disaster damages.

It supports states, tribes, territories,

and local communities in their efforts

to reduce or eliminate risk of disasters.

Here's an example.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program,

HMGP, funded the
acquisition and demolition

of 36 flood-prone homes in Pensacola

after Hurricane Sally in 2020.

Next, please.

We are now taking a 10-minute break.

I have 11:09, so let's join
back here at 11:19, please.

Thank you so much.

So we talked about disaster declarations.

What you had to have,
basically your systems

had to be stretched beyond the capacity

to meet the needs of the people there.

We talked about that.

So here are the steps to
a disaster declaration.

First, there's a threat of the disaster,

when the disaster occurs.

You can have a threat
of a hurricane coming

and you can declare a disaster,

or you can have the
disaster already occurred.

State resources are
overwhelmed, you establish that.

The governor or the chief tribal executive

has to request federal assistance,

and the president has
to declare the disaster.

Well, the president can choose
to declare the disaster.

That's how you get a disaster declaration.

Okay, those are the steps you go through

to get a disaster declaration.

Now, let's go to the next slide.

And we're going through the
disaster declaration process.

And by the way, let's go back
one slide, Shaylin, I'm sorry.

Number 1, there at number 1

is threat of disaster that
has a circle, a green circle,

2 has a yellow circle, and
3 has an orange circle,

and 5 has a deeper orange circle.

Now let's go to slide 59, sorry.

The disaster declaration process.

From the top.

What you have here is number 3,

the governor, tribal chief executive

request federal assistance.

That's the first thing that happens.

Underneath that is 4.

There can be a presidential
declaration for an emergency.

The president can declare an emergency,

or there can be a presidential declaration

for major disaster.

So you can have an emergency declaration

or disaster declaration.

Those are two circles that
are parallel to each other,

number 4.

Underneath that is number 5.

Now under 4, once there's
a presidential declaration

for an emergency, nothing
further comes from that.

It's limited assistance.

But if it's a presidential
declaration for major disaster,

you can get FEMA Public Assistance

like we just talked about,
FEMA Individual Assistance,

or FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance.

Hopefully that makes it,
and Priya Penner on our team

developed this slide,
and I think it's great.

And hopefully that makes it clearer.

Next slide, please.

Now there's phases of
emergency management.

They're mitigation, preparedness,
response, and recovery.

Let's take a look at those.

Mitigation includes
actions taken to prevent

or reduce the cause, impact,
and consequences of disasters.

So you wanna reduce it, prevent it.

It includes things like
digging water channels

to redirect water and planting
vegetation to absorb water,

elevating homes and business
to reduce flood damage.

So that's disaster mitigation

to make it not as bad when
it happens, if it happens.

Preparedness is planning, training,

and educational activities and events

for events that can't be mitigated.

So examples include developing
disaster preparedness plans

for those, for what to do, where to go,

who to call, and who to
call for help in a disaster.

And also exercising plans
via drills, tabletop,

and full-scale exercises.

That's mitigation and preparedness.

Next, please.

Now response and recovery.

Response occurs in the immediate
aftermath of the disaster.

So that involves implementing your plans,

your disaster response plans,

conducting search and rescue missions.

Whereas recovery is when
restoration efforts occur

concurrently with regular operations

and activities at the same time,

and it can take months or even years.

Examples include rebuilding
damaged structures,

reducing reducing risk
of future disasters.

Next, please.

Now the response phase.

It typically ends when the
following conditions are met.

The immediate needs of
the affected population

have been met, yay,

essential infrastructure
has been restored,

and the affected community is able

to begin their response and recovery.

Next, please.

Some organizations that respond

in times of disasters are the VOAD,

the Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disasters,

and the COAD Community
Organizations Active in Disasters.

They're coalitions of organizations

that respond to disasters.

Their goal is to facilitate
cooperation, communication,

coordination, and collaboration.

And there's links in this presentation

to the Florida VOAD and
the Miami-Dade COAD,

which I believe you work with.

Next, please.

Any questions?

Keep in mind there are
still fabulous prizes here.

- I have a question.

- Okay.

- Well, one thing, most
of the topics, I mean,

has been covered mostly
about natural disaster.

But one thing, I mean,
I haven't seen anything,

it's like, about like, manmade disasters,

like what happened in
Surfside three years ago

with the building collapsing.

- Right, I mean, for a disaster
you would have to show,

for a disaster declaration,

and that was a horrible tragedy,

that was just terrible,

and that your resources
were stretched so far

that you couldn't deal with it.

And I don't believe that
was a disaster declaration.

Typically there are
other manmade disasters

like radiation leaks, chemical spills,

those kinds of things that
could stretch your capacities.

Shaylin, do you have
anything to say about that,

about the apartment complex
that was devastated?

It was two years ago, right?

- This is German, and there
was a county declaration.

- Okay.

- So it doesn't matter if it's
a natural declared disaster

or a manmade disaster.

If it's a disaster that
exceeds the local capacity,

then the county would ask
the governor for support,

and if the governor declares that they,

it exceeds the state's capacity,

regardless of the nature of the incident,

but the fact that it exceeds
the capacity to respond,

they request the disaster
declaration to the president,

and it continues the same manner

regardless of the nature of the disaster.

Does that help-
- Right.

- So it turns on whether
your capacity is exceeded,

not the type, not the nature
of, what German just said.

And that's German Parodi,

our co-executive director with Shaylin.

Does that answer your question?

- Yes.

- Thank you. Other questions?

If not, I'm gonna go to the next slide.

- It's Shaylin.
- You see anything?

- I think Patrick is missing
a fabulous prize, Melissa.

- Oh, I'm so sorry, Patrick.

Oh, because of my oversight,

your fabulous prize is a
matchbox size silver Lamborghini.

You're leaving here with a brand new

virtual model car, matchbox car.

Just saying, Patrick.

- I love that.

- Cool. (chuckles) Next, please.

So here's a quick scenario.

You're representing your CIL
in a disaster planning meeting

with county and state
emergency management.

They're using lots of
terms we just went over,

but you're having a hard time

remembering what some of them are.

What do you do? Anybody?

Fabulous prizes? No
right or wrong answers.

You don't understand what
they're talking about.

They're using words you don't know.

- You ask.

- You ask. Yes.

Always, always ask.

And it's really important
to be the person who says,

"I'm sorry, you know, this isn't my field.

Can you just update me on this?"

People aren't gonna get
upset with you for asking.

Always, always ask.

And you get a rainbow,

a rainbow colored finger skating board.

So it's a little, little skateboard

that you can use for your
finger at your desk or anywhere.

But it's virtual.

Ask always. Don't be afraid to ask.

There's no shame in asking.

Sometimes we get tied up in,
"I don't know what this is.

I don't know what this is."

I remember in the beginning

when I first started doing
emergency management,

I've been doing, like I said,
disability my whole life,

but emergency management was new,

and it was when Hurricane
Harvey, Irma, and Maria hit

and there were all these new terms

and I had to remind
myself it's okay to ask.

It's okay to ask, "What's
ESF 6 and what's ESF 8 again?

And what's the difference?"

It's okay. Next, please.

- This is Shaylin. I see Juan's hand up.

- Oh, Juan. Thank you.

- Hi, good morning. I'm
Juan Romero, I'm deaf,

and I'm using the woman interpreter.

So you were mentioning
about asking about terms

that you've never heard before,

but especially for the deaf,

there's a lot of terminology and things

that we've never seen before.

And so that, you know, clearly explaining

is really important, and giving examples.

Maybe, you know, a hearing
person might just give,

like, some simple explanation,

but deaf people might need a
little bit more clarification

and expansion with examples.

So, that's just my input. Thank you.

- Thank you, Juan.

I totally understand
that. I appreciate that.

Sometimes at emergency management tables

you're not gonna know that,

and it shouldn't be your
job as someone who's deaf

to have to explain that,
but sometimes it is.

We have to say, "Can
you explain it clearly?

My first language is
ASL, it's not English.

So please explain terms clearly,"

and ask them to do that,
because people don't know that.

And they should, but they don't.

Okay, but thank you very
much for that point.

And your fabulous prize

is you get a green long neck dinosaur.

It's one of the small ones.
It's about an inch long.

I think it's a T-Rex, you get a T-Rex.

Next, please.

We're gonna look really quickly
at civil rights obligations

because we're doing a whole
training on that soon.

So, next slide, please.

Just gonna give you an
overview very quickly

of disability rights and disasters.

Whenever disaster related
programs and services

are provided to the general public,

they must be accessible to

and inclusive of people with disabilities.

Shelters cannot deny you
entry because you're disabled.

You have the right to enter shelters

that are physically
accessible and ADA compliant,

meet their obligations under ADA,

and you have the right to
equally effective communication.

What that means are sign
language interpreters or VRI,

Braille, large print,
and assistive technology.

There's a lot more than that,

but that's just a summary of it.

Next, please.

You have a right to request
reasonable modifications

of policies and practices.

You have the right to
bring your service animal

with you in a shelter,
disaster recovery center,

or other public places

providing disaster-related
programs and services.

And you have a right not
to go into a facility

if you don't want to,

into a nursing facility
if you don't want to.

That's not so much under ADA,
but we'll talk about that.

But you can say no.

Important, important thing to remember

is disability rights are
never suspended in disasters.

Next, please.

Again, repeating civil rights
of people with disabilities

are never suspended, including disasters.

Next.

Any questions?

And I said we're gonna be
talking a lot about this soon.

So there's no questions.

Let's go to slide 71.
Next slide, please, 71.

Special needs shelters and registries.

And the word special needs
is in quote, intentionally.

Next, please.

I wanna give you some
disclaimers and clarifications.

The Partnership does not support
the concept of, in quotes,

"special registries for
disabled people in disasters."

The Partnership does not support the use

of the outdated term special needs.

Florida, however, has a law

that requires special needs registries.

Florida is the only state that mandates

that a special needs registry

for disabled people in disasters.

North Carolina, Illinois,
and Texas have legislation

that authorizes registries.

And meaning, it's used
but it doesn't mandate it.

So you're the only people with it in law,

in statute we call it.

Next, please. Fun fact, yeah?

And again, we're gonna talk a lot more

about special needs registries
in the legal training

and coming up next, so we're
just kinda summarizing it now.

But in Florida, to get access to a, quote,

"special needs shelter,"

people should be registered

on the Florida Special Needs Registry.

There's a link right here.

People with disabilities
are encouraged to register

before an event to try
to ensure transportation,

but if a disabled person shows up

at a special needs shelter,
they shouldn't be turned away,

and the individuals should be added

to the registry on the spot.

Completing the Florida Special
Needs Registry, however,

doesn't automatically qualify a person

for the special needs shelter.

Next, please.

During an emergency, the
government and other agencies

may not be able to meet your needs.

You should be prepared
to take care of yourself

and your loved ones for
a minimum of 72 hours.

Those individuals with
special need are encouraged

to identify an emergency support network

and build a disaster supply kit.

Registering on this
website is not a guarantee

that the emergency officials will be able

to assist you in an emergency.

This is all from your website.

It's all from the Florida website,

so just know that, and that's
what they say about it.

Next, please.

Institutions during and after disasters.

Institutionalization, I should say,

during and after disasters.

We're, again, gonna be
talking a lot about this

in the legal section, so we're
doing this really quickly.

The consequences of institutionalization,

I know you all know this, but
I'm just saying it out loud,

is people lose their independence.

People get lost, they get
separated from loved ones.

People can't find them when they want to.

People get sick, people
lose their social networks,

jobs, and homes, and people die.

And to the extent that
we had to prove this,

we always knew this, but the extent

that we had to prove this,

COVID really made the case for this.

Next, please.

Any questions so far on any of this?

Now if we go to the next slide, please.

And talk about recovery.

Next, please.

Individual and household disaster recovery

includes temporary and permanent housing,

the household's recovery,

resuming daily routine,
that might be going to work,

going to school, transportation,
childcare, groceries,

health maintenance, all
those daily routines.

So that's what recovery on an
individual level looks like.

Next, please.

Community recovery includes
rebuilding the community

using universal design principles.

Because remember it's gotta
be inclusive of everybody.

Getting transportation
back, housing, education,

jobs, childcare, mitigation,
and disaster resilience.

And I see something popped up in the chat.

- This is Shaylin.

Larry asks in the chat,

"Is The Partnership's opposition

to, quote, "special needs"
registries based on the idea

that all shelters serve,
quote, "special needs?"

- Yes, all shelters do serve everyone

and should serve everyone.

And when people are
segregated and separated,

and we'll talk about this more,
they end up in institutions

where we get sick, sicker, and can die,

and get isolated and lose our jobs

and lose our place in society.

Make sense?

And your fabulous prize
is you get a little top

for your desk that's blue and
yellow, a little tiny one.

So, having a seat at the
emergency management table.

you wanna stay involved and get involved

in the planning stage,

when they're planning meetings,

when they're planning exercises,

when they're doing comprehensive
emergency management plan.

People with disabilities need to be there.

When they do exercises and people pretend

there's a disaster and pretend
to evacuate from a building,

there should people with disabilities.

They shouldn't have people
without disabilities

playing people with disabilities.

They shouldn't have
people with disabilities

pretending they have
disabilities they don't have,

we should have actual people
with actual disability

participating in that,

being at the emergency management table.

So, getting and maintaining your seat

at local, county, and state
emergency operations centers,

EOCs, that's really important to be there,

and to stay there, and
to have representation.

Because if you don't have
representation before,

you're not gonna have
representation during.

Next, please.

And you're doing this.

You know, CILs are doing this.

Invite yourselves if
they don't invite you,

and if you have to have
a seat at the table,

if you don't have a seat at the table,

maybe build your own table.

Embed yourself, get yourself
on their list servers,

make it harder for them not to invite you

than to invite you.

Also maintain and nurture relationships.

Invite them to events you
do in emergency management,

but also invite them to the,

maybe if you do a picnic
at a certain time of year,

celebrations, invite them to your events,

have them become part
of the CIL community.

So invite them to your events.

And remember, and communicate to them,

nothing about us without us.

Always.

Next, please.

Okay, we are on the next
one. Sorry, Shaylin.

So you're staff member
to CIL, which you are.

You notice that people with disabilities

haven't been involved
in emergency planning.

What actions can you take to get people

with disabilities more involved?

What can you do?
- Advocating more.

- Go ahead.

- Advocating more. This is Neil.

More advocacy within-

- Advocating more.

How would you do that? That's great.

- Just the information
we put out on our socials

or a robocall or those kind
of activities we normally do.

- Yep, you wanna encourage
people to get involved.

Yes. Excellent.

You get a little bottle of
soap bubbles, by the way.

- I love those things.

- Which can be all kinds

of fun.
- Thank you very much.

- Advocating more.

What else can you do to get people there?

Letting people know.

- This is Shaylin. I see Juan's hand's up.

- Juan.

- Hi, again. So, just
wanted to understand.

There's a big, big, big, serious big issue

with the deaf community for communication.

And for, you know, what's it called?

For these people who
have the emergency events

typically forget about the deaf community.

Plus, sometimes they think, "Okay, money,"

'cause they need money for interpreters.

And most of the time,
to be honest with you,

I've seen, like, that
happen so many times.

I've, you know, contacted them,

you know, 'cause I would
like to be involved,

and the issue is communication.

'Cause communication is crucial.

So we need to make sure
communication is clear.

Maybe something last
minute or something serious

that's going on, like, you know,

in two hours a hurricane's
coming or something like that.

But, you know, or maybe
it's far, I don't know.

But seriously the, you know, there's a lot

of miscommunication
with the deaf community

and not having interpreters
and not being prepared,

not knowing what's going on.

So, that is something that
I still think about today

'cause it's still happening,

and just trying to
broadcast that information.

And I don't mean only Florida stinks. No.

I mean, it happens all over the state,

but just, you know, thinking
about like, you know,

how we had the faked interpreters,

and people who don't know how
to sign and things like that.

So that's just one thing that
the involvement, of course,

you know, where I'm not,
maybe I'm not invited,

or maybe they're just unaware
of these certain circumstances

or they're scared, and they're like,

"Oh, we have a deaf representative.

I don't know how this is gonna be,"

then they'll blame us,

and all these like negative connotations.

So it's just something to think
about, and that'll be all.

Thank you.

- Thank you, Juan.

And I totally agree with
everything you said,

and one of the things, again, as advocates

we need to stay on top of
is that, for the most part,

not having interpreters or
VRI at least is not legal.

That's illegal to do that.

If it's a state or government doing it,

they don't get to say, oh we
don't have it in their budget.

They have to plan their
budget, so they have to do it.

It's a really high standard.

We can start filing
complaints against them,

file complaints to the
Department of Justice,

we can file complaints,

we can file complaints lots of places.

And so that's something
you start thinking about

as an advocacy strategy,

is what is gonna be the
CIL's advocacy strategy

for when they say, "Oh we
couldn't have an interpreter.

We couldn't afford it,"
or, "We forgot about it,"

or, "We don't wanna do that,"

or, "We're not comfortable
with deaf people."

That's against the law,
and we're gonna be talking

about that a lot more
in the next training.

But it can be a CIL's,

if the CIL makes an advocacy plan,

that might be something
they consider thinking about

because doing that is illegal.

Does that make sense?

And Juan, for your great question,

you get a little white
plastic unicorn. (chuckles)

- Oh yes, you know, my son loves the,

what's it called?

The good-something.

It's like some dolphin
there, but (chuckles)...

(Melissa laughs)

Recently about the VRI.

Yeah, so, okay about that.

It's not that I hate it, I'm
just a little bit frustrated

because it freezes constantly.

Then there's, like, I can't
really see what's going on

and it's like a big
issue because, you know,

we want clear communication.

So still to today, many people think,

"Oh, VRI, that's great."

It is great. Yes.

Maybe, you know, for like
the beginning of COVID

we had that situation.

I mean, but then later
on it's like, you know,

we have issues with
the, you know, internet,

the connections and all that.

So it's just really confusing.

I don't really know what's
going on sometimes, so,

but yeah, that was just
my comment about VRI.

Thank you.

- And the law says that
they have to give you

equally effective communication,

and if VRI is garbled and
there's not connectivity

and it's broken and it's frozen,

that's not effective communication.

So they'd have to provide
you with an interpreter.

- This is Shaylin.

I see Patrick's hand up,
and then I think maybe Lily

had a comment maybe, too.

- Sure. Patrick.

- Yeah, so it's mostly
about, like, a comment

about, like, what actions, I mean,

can you take with people with disabilities

to get more involved since I
work with the youth department?

The issue here is is that
some of the young adults,

some with disabilities,

either are oblivious
about a natural disaster,

or some of them they just don't understand

really the seriousness of it.

So, like, the best way to
get them involved in, like,

emergency planning is
to hold really trainings

along with the parents
to help them understand.

And it'll be like doing a training,

I'd say like doing a
mock disaster scenario

for them to exactly
understand what is going on

and how they can really prepare for that.

- Yes, that's absolutely a great idea.

And I'm working in Alaska
on a program like that

for youth right now as we speak.

So I think that's a
really, really great idea.

And thank you for thinking about that.

- Um-
- Um...

Go ahead.
- I'm sorry.

And I would like to, I
mean if I get in contact

with you later on after the training

to see if I could invite you over

to our youth department sometime,

that way we can do a natural
disaster training with them.

- You can connect with Shaylin and German

through The Partnership, and thank you,

that is a great idea, and
I really appreciate that.

It's training youth,

it's having youth find it interesting

'cause everyone finds
disasters boring, you know,

or they think they're not interested,

and also there's lots of
careers people could have

in the disaster field
and emergency management,

or advocacy in emergency management.

So that's really important.

- I agree with that because sometimes

some of the youth
consumers, some that I have,

some of them either they're just not

either paying attention
when the presenter speaks,

or they just don't find
it really that appealing.

But when it comes to a natural disaster,

let's say if a hurricane happens,

because that's more
common here in Florida,

some of them then you would find out

that probably either
they didn't really have

an emergency plan or probably
they had to go somewhere else

outside of the Miami area to
just escape the hurricane,

and when they come back
home, they found out probably

that their house has been destroyed.

I mean, just to give an example.

So, just to help them understand.

- I think maybe trying to make it engaging

is the challenge of doing that.

Trying to not be lecturing, and you know,

I don't talk about scenarios.

I talk about the zombie apocalypse.

I don't talk about the hurricane,

I talk about the zombies coming.

I talk about, you know, all
all of those kinds of things

that's media that they can relate to

and things that they can relate to

and have it be interactive
and have people build things

and do things and say things,

and I think that's a
way of getting involved.

Also, I think it's really
good if you as parents

wanna be involved, but I think it's good

to get youth independently.

That makes it more appealing, too.

- Yeah.

- Because when you're young,

do you wanna go somewhere
with your parents?

Not necessarily.

But I think that's a
great idea, so thank you.

And you get a purple
monster finger puppet,

it's plastic, as your fabulous prize.

You're living here with a lot today.

- This is Shaylin.
- Another comment, Shaylin?

- Just to add to that, you know,

our next trainings, once
we have them scheduled,

is the "Disability Rights
and Disasters," and the

"Personal Preparedness for
People with Disabilities."

So that would maybe be a good opportunity

to invite those consumers that
you're working with, Patrick,

to those conversations
as a starting point,

and then from there we can work, you know,

more in a smaller group setting perhaps,

and address, you know,
some questions or concerns

and have that dialogue with the consumers

that you're working with in particular.

We can certainly talk.
- Sure.

I would love that.

- Great.
- That sounds great.

That sounds good.

And there's another comment,
I forget who it was from.

Shaylin, do you remember?

- Oh, it was from me.

- Hello.

- Going back to scenario six's question,

an answer that I have is to
share our services and programs

with the people who are
involved in emergency planning

that are not including
people with disabilities.

- And to share what with them?

I'm sorry...

- Our services and programs.

- Yeah, yeah.

Let let them know what a center is,

what independent living
philosophy is, what you do.

Reach out to them, let them know about it,

and how you can connect
them and, like, be a bridge

between people with disabilities

and the emergency management.

That's great.

And you get a fabulous prize.

It's a little teeny tiny
bouquet of balloons.

All colors.

Okay. Thank you

Shaylin, I'm gonna let people
know about the resources here

is what I think I'm gonna do,

'cause we'll get to the next
scenario in the next training.

So, I just wanna let you
know that there's resources

below our training schedule.

We had our training, if we
can go to the next slide,

which is 85.

Yes.

And some of our resources are, you know,

we have FEMA resources, FEMA Region 4.

Region 4 doesn't have

a Regional Disability
Integration Specialist yet.

It's vacant, and I think
they've hired someone

but haven't announced who it is

because they haven't started
or something right now,

so there's a name that you can contact.

And just know that there's
lots of resources here.

And next slide, please.

The Florida Division of
Emergency Management.

The Florida DM Access and
Functional Needs Planning.

The Florida VOAD, like we talked about.

Miami-Dade County Emergency Management,

which is important, as are all of them.

American Red Cross South Florida.

211 Miami.

Miami Strong, which is great.

The Disaster Resilience Network.

Next, please.

Southeast ADA Center is really important.

If you have questions

about the Americans with Disabilities Act,

they can answer your questions.

You can just call them

and they will answer
your questions reliably,

and they know this stuff.

And as always, it's free.

It's a federal resource. It's great.

And there is a paper that
The Partnership wrote.

We were a contracted writer

for the National Council on Disability.

So it's a National Council
with Disabilities paper

that the contract with us to write

called "Preserving Our Freedom,"

and it's any
institutionalization of people

with disabilities during
and after disasters.

So if you're interested in
reading that, that'd be great.

Our disability and disaster
hotline for The Partnership.

Redirecting emergency registries,

community driven solutions.

Accessible points of
distribution, or PODS, reminders.

'Cause points of distribution,

where you distribute food and water,

have to be accessible to
people with disabilities.

We have resources on how to
file a civil rights complaint.

So if there isn't an interpreter there,

maybe you can file a civil
rights complaint about that.

That's really important.

Next, please.

And we have a few minutes,

so I'm going to go to, let's
go to slide 56, please.

- This is Shaylin.

Real quick, Melissa, I did
see a hand go up for a moment.

I believe it was Rachel.

Did you have a question, Rachel?

- Oh Rachel.

- Hey, yes. No, my question was answered.

Thank you.
- Oh great.

Shaylin, if we can go to slide 57, please.

- Sure. One second.

- This is a scenario I
didn't think we had time for,

but we do and it's great,

and I was feeling badly that
we didn't get to it, so yay.

- You said 57. Yes, I got it, one second.

- Sorry about that, Shaylin.

- No worries. Here we are.

- Okay, so a consumer contacts you

and tells you there's been
a big storm in the area

and their house has been damaged.

They wanna know if FEMA can help.

What services can that
consumer expect from FEMA,

and how can you support that consumer?

And fabulous prizes are there
for right and wrong answers.

Don't have to be correct.

- For Public Assistance.

They qualify since there might be debris

'cause the house is damaged.

- For Public Assistance for debris,

that's big debris across,
like, streets and areas.

It would be Individual Assistance
if the house is damaged,

but they might qualify
for Individual Assistance.

That is great.

And you get one of those silver
and gold shiny party horns

you can blow into like
at New Year's and stuff.

- You love all my favorite things.

- What's that?

- Yay.
- See?

See, did I pick up on that?

I never gave those away.

So that's a new thing.

So it would be Individual Assistance.

What would have to happen
for FEMA to kick in, though?

So had a big storm.

Didn't say there was a hurricane
or a tornado, it was a big-

- Could be advanced notice
like the declaration?

- There has to be a declaration,

and the declaration is issued,

requested by the governor in Florida,

issued by the president when
the resources are so stretched

that the local government

and state government can't meet them.

So if there's a big
thunderstorm and someone says,

"Oh, I had this big
thunderstorm, can I call FEMA?"

You wanna say, "Well what was the storm?"

If it was a big thunderstorm,

there's not gonna be a
disaster declaration for that.

Then they're gonna have
to look for other things.

FEMA kicks in when there's a
federally declared disaster.

- Hmm.
- Make sense?

- Yes.

- Okay.

And what other services?

Let's say there was a hurricane,

what kinds of services
can they expect from FEMA?

(both speak at once)

- Evacuation? Sorry. (chuckles)

- And we haven't gone into this a lot,

so it's kind of an unfair
question just thrown out there.

FEMA will give assistance.

They're now giving, they'll
give you a small amount of money

to kind of get through

and meet your disaster-related needs.

It's now $750.

That's direct assistance.

But also, they can give you up to $43,500

to replace your home.

That's not a lot compared
the cost of a home.

Also, they hardly ever give,

they give like a fraction
of that amount of money

to help you with that.

And it covers what's not covered.

Like, they have to go
to your insurance first

and all those kinds of things.

So FEMA can do lots of
things for lots of people,

but can't do everything for everybody.

So FEMA is a resource,

and people say, well FEMA
didn't do this, this and this.

Well, FEMA's not supposed
to do this, this, and that.

Sometimes FEMA isn't inclusive
of people with disabilities

and that's not legal and
that's a whole other matter

that we're gonna be
talking about next time.

- Yeah, I was gonna mention,
so when we get hurricanes,

not in Miami, but throughout
Florida, FEMA does,

they do refer a lot of people to us

for assistive technology.

And so, I worked with many people

who needed AT after the hurricanes.

- Right. Great.

And there are instances
where FEMA should be paying

for assistive technology, so I'm not sure

why they're referring
them to you necessarily?

- Yeah, yeah, I'm not
sure about that either.

That was my first question.

But you know, I just of course wanted

to assist the consumer, too.

- FEMA sometimes refers
people to The Partnership

when they should be assisting them, too.

So, we understand that.

We feel your joy to assist people

and your pain for going,
"Why do we have to do this?"

Shaylin, do you wanna add to that?

- Yes, the one thing I would add to that,

this is Shaylin, is that, you know,

a lot of times FEMA does try to work

with community partners,

which is where that sort of
comes from in their attempts,

but part of our jobs as
advocates is making sure

that if FEMA can replace those devices,

that folks are applying
for that assistance.

And there are some new changes happening

throughout FEMA's Individual Assistance

that will be activated no later

or sooner than March 22nd of this year,

which will increase some of
our community's eligibility

for different related accessibility items,

which is really exciting news.

So things like maybe AT devices

that folks did not have
previously may be eligible,

whereas right now, and
up until this point,

you know, you had to have
that device or that equipment

or that ramp prior to
the disaster happening

in order to be eligible for replacement

or assistance afterwards.

- So would there be any information

that you could forward to me

regarding the new change in March?

- Yes, I will definitely send that along

to the team so that can get out.

And we did just have,

I know I think Lily joined us on Monday,

a community call around
some of these changes,

and as soon as that recording
is available for distribution,

I'll also make sure that
you all have that available.

- Yeah, and I just ask that
because I work with people

regarding housing and also AT.

- Right.

And that's really important,
knowing when FEMA pays.

And you used to have
to go through SBA loans

that you don't necessarily
have to go through now,

Small Business Administration loans,

which made no sense to anyone,

and so they've clarified some things

and it's really pretty exciting

and a good development that's coming up,

so we're really excited about that.

And I said, goes March 22nd.

- Yes, March 22nd is when we are to expect

a lot of major changes, and
there will then of course

be a lot of education
needed around these changes,

and we can probably
expect Florida to be maybe

one of the first states to experience

some of these changes in real times

as we know that'll start
creeping into hurricane season.

But we'll keep our fingers crossed

that maybe you're not the first ones.

- Right, right.

And maybe there are no more hurricanes,

and maybe there are no
hurricanes this year,

and we'll keep our fingers
crossed about that,

but we all know that's not that likely.

But I think learning about these things,

we'll have to educate ourselves

and the disability community.

I wouldn't be surprised if we
had to educate FEMA, you know,

in terms of, you know,
it's changed the rule

and sometimes the knowledge
doesn't get down to people.

Red Cross, anyone who's involved in it,

we're gonna have to let
people know about that.

So I just wanna say
thank you to all of you.

This is a really great way

to start off our partnership
and to meet with you.

You have my email, feel
free to contact me anytime,

and I really appreciate.

So you know, the slide has our logo,

it says, "Thank you," and my name,

Melissa Marshall, with the JD afterwards.

People call me an embarrassed esquire.

I don't advertise it.

I don't practice law, I don't
advertise that I'm a lawyer,

but I'm trained to do that.

And I'm the director
of policy and programs,

and it has the disaster strategies website

and our address underneath that.

And a copyright from 2024.

So, thank you so much.

This has been great, and
I'm really looking forward

to sending the schedule

and knowing when we
can do other trainings.

And there's a survey
form, Shaylin, somewhere?

- Yes, this is Shaylin.

I just added in the
chat a little while ago

a link to a survey.

If you don't mind taking a few minutes

just to give us your
feedback on today's training.

It always helps us continue
to grow, get better,

and make sure that
information is in formats

that make sense and are digestible,

so we appreciate hearing your feedback.

And of course as I
mentioned at the beginning,

we'll be sending all of
this out to you also.

Don't worry if you weren't able

to grab the link in the
chat or need the slides,

we will send those afterwards.

So thank you so much.

Thank you for the time together.

We're looking forward
to continuing this work.

So thank you so much for today

and continuous opportunities together.

- Have a great rest of
your day, everybody.

- Thank you.
- Thank you so much,

Shaylin and Melissa.
- Thank you very much.

- Thank you. Bye-bye, folks.