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.