- Hello everybody and welcome.

We're gonna give it another minute or two

before we officially get started.

- Lili, when you can,

if you could turn on your  
camera and get us started.

- Hi everyone.

My name is Lili Portman

and I am the Community Engagement  
Coordinator here at the

Center for Independent  
Living of South Florida.

Today there is, we are doing a training

with the Partnership  
for Inclusive Disaster,

for Inclusive Disaster Strategies,  
which is an organization

that prioritizes equity  
inclusion for people

with disabilities before,  
during, and after natural,

after disaster and emergencies.

Their training today is  
disability rights in disasters.

And thank you, thank  
you to the partnership.

And I would like to introduce  
you Shaylin and German,

who are co-directors  
of of the partnership,

and Melissa who is the director of policy

at the partnership too.

- Hello everybody and welcome

to the Partnerships Disability  
Rights and Disasters

for Center of Independent  
Living of South Florida.

My name is Priya Penner

and I'm also with the partnership.

I use she her pronouns

and I'm a young brown woman  
with long curly black hair.

Today I'm wearing a blue, gray  
cardigan and a white shirt

and on the screen you'll  
have a title slide

that reads Disability Rights in Florida

for SIL of South Florida,

Disability Rights and  
Disasters SIL of South Florida.

Below that is our website,

www.disasterstrategies.org.

And above this text is the  
partnership header logo,

which is a sun with four images within it

and the text,

the Partnership for  
Inclusive Disaster Strategies

to the right of the logo.

The four images within  
the sun are a hurricane,

a thunderstorm cloud  
with a lightning bolt,

a house with a split down  
the middle and a tornado.

So I'm gonna go ahead and get us started

with a few accessibility  
technical support reminders

and then we will get started  
with the training itself.

So first and foremost, this  
training is being recorded

and an archive of today's  
conversation will be available

in the coming weeks.

In addition to the recording,

You'll also receive an  
accessible slide deck

that is the presentation used today.

So do be on lookout for  
these items in your email

in the coming weeks.

Today we have AI captions  
available through Otter.ai.

You can access the captions  
via the show captions CC button

on the bottom of your navigation bar

on the bottom of your Zoom screen.

Click a once to show subtitles on Zoom.

You can edit the font size

and the text color via the  
subtitle settings button,

which is accessed via the small  
carrot within the CC button.

A screenshot shows the zoom navigation bar

that sits at the bottom of the zoom screen

with the show captions  
button outlined in red.

We also have American Sign  
Language interpretation today

and our interpreters  
are already spotlighted.

To adjust the size of  
the slides and speakers

or the interpreters in Zoom,  
you can drag the divider,

which is inside the red vertical  
rectangle in the screenshot

on the slide that separates  
the interpreters and speakers.

Drag that to the right and the left,

you will adjust the size.

If you can't access the ASL interpreters,

please do let us know as soon as possible

and you can do so in chat.

If chat's not accessible to you,

you can email your questions

to info@disasterstrategies.org.

To ask or respond to questions,

as we do hope that this, you  
know, we get your feedback

and we, you know, get your  
thoughts throughout the training.

You can use your, the raise  
your hand button at the bottom

of your Zoom screen.

You can also type in chat.

And I know that we have  
some folks who are attending

in a classroom and in person,

and that's so, so exciting.

For folks, you can also  
let us know, you know,

get a little closer to the camera

'cause it's a little  
difficult to see y'all.

But let us know

and you can just jump  
in on the conversation

at an appropriate time.

And then do raise your hand  
or type in chat or let us know

otherwise if you're experiencing  
any technical assistance,

technical issues, or you can let us know

of any issues that you're  
experiencing in chat,

for example, to slow down.

'Cause we here in the northeast tend

to speak rather quickly.

And then finally,

some friendly reminders  
regarding accessibility

for this training, please  
do identify yourself

before speaking every time.

An example is, if I had a comment to add,

I would start my comment  
with, this is Priya

and I wanna add this comment.

Please don't talk over others

and keep yourself on mute  
when you're not talking.

This is especially helpful for folks

who are accessing today's  
training via captioning

and or interpreters.

And then please do define any acronyms

you may use so that we're  
all on the same page.

And with that, I'm gonna  
pass it over to you, Melissa.

- Good morning everybody.

I'm happy to be here again.

For those of you that didn't,  
weren't at the training

before, my name is Melissa Marshall.

And as I said before,

I'm the director of policy and programs

for the partnership.

Today I'm wearing a beige black cardigan.

I have, I'm a white woman with  
long gray hair and glasses

and I use she her pronouns.

And you already heard about  
what the partnership was,

so I'm gonna jump through the next slide.

But just know we are a  
disability disaster hub.

So all things disability disaster,  
you can come to us about.

So thank you so much.

Okay, I wanna talk about  
some group agreements

that we make and first,  
maintain confidentiality.

It's okay to talk about a situation,

don't use the name of a person,

don't use the specifics about the person.

It's okay to talk, but just,

and keep, keep that to  
yourself or keep that private.

And anything that happens in this room

and this virtual room  
stays in this virtual room.

We are being recorded, but just know

shouldn't spread it all over town

if someone made a mistake and said

someone's name, something like that.

Confidentiality is pretty basic.

Ask questions.

If you have questions, raise your hand,

put them in the chat.

It's okay to interrupt me.

We have lots of spaces  
for you to ask questions,

but if you have a question  
that just occurs to you,

raise your hand and ask your question.

Most important rule, have fun.

Disaster work is really serious.

It's a matter of life and death.

But I like to challenge us

to take ourselves just a little  
bit less seriously sometimes

and laugh and have fun.

And to help you have fun, I have with me,

if I was there in person,

I'd give you little fabulous prizes

like you'd have from a  
kid's birthday party.

But I'm gonna give you pretend ones.

I'm gonna give virtual  
invisible, fabulous prizes.

Next, please.

Next, please.

- This is Priya.

I apologize.

I just wanna pause for a moment

and make sure that we are  
set with our interpreters.

I'm seeing a comment in chat

that someone is having difficulty

seeing the interpreter.

Can we, do you mind clarifying?

- This is Chris Littlewood speaking.

I don't know if I can offer help,

but I can see both the  
interpreter and the caption fine.

However, the interpreter is  
small, just like a participant.

So you might be able to,

there should be three dots  
on the person's screen.

You should be able to just  
click on those three dots

and then spotlight the interpreter.

So that will create a larger  
screen of the interpreter.

So someone using it on the interpreter

for communication can see that.

- This is Priya.

Thank you so much for that comment.

The interpreters are already  
spotlighted for folks,

what may be happening in this  
case is you need to either go

to the top right view, excuse  
me, the top right button

that says view and click that,

and then click speaker view.

And that'll give you all of  
the spotlighted interpreters

and spotlighted speakers.

And then you can adjust the screen

the size of the boxes

using that little  
divider that we discussed

a couple slides back between,  
between the speaker boxes

and the screen, the slides.

Is that helpful for the folks

who are having difficulty  
seeing the interpreters?

- Can you, this is Lili.

Can you please unpin the  
interpreter that's not talked?

That's not, thank you.

- All right, perfect.

- Thank you.  
- Of course.

- Are we set?

- We are set.

Thanks so much, Melissa.

- Okay, thank you.

No, we gotta get that taken care of.

So thank you.

So our goals for today,

we'd like to help you  
build your confidence

and understanding that people

with disabilities have  
rights and disasters.

What some of those rights that we have are

and how to advocate for your rights.

I forgot to mention in my description,

I'm somebody with cerebral  
palsy and I'm a scooter user

and I have a disability

and a former independent  
living center director.

So, okay, so IL is near  
and dear to my heart.

Next please.

I wanna go over what you can

and can't expect from this training.

You're not gonna become an expert

in disability rights and disasters.

That would take years.

What you will do is you'll have some idea

of what your rights are in disasters.

Importantly, you'll know  
where to get answers

to your questions about your rights.

And you'll have some opportunities

to practice advocating for your rights.

It's very short training today,

but you'll have some opportunity.

Please.

What would you like

to know about your rights about,

of people with disabilities?

What are your goals?

Any goals that are different  
than we talked about?

Feel free to put it in  
the chat or call out.

Seeing anything, Priya?

- This is Priya.

I am not quite seeing anything in chat.

I see a comment from Mio,

when to not take no for an answer.

- Thank you.

We'll talk about that.

Thank you.

Mio for talking or for giving a comment

gets the first fabulous prize

and he gets a little teeny matchbox size

Lamborghini and it's silver.

So he has a brand new toy car.

Okay, next please.

Unless there's anything else.

Now we're gonna talk about  
disability rights laws.

Another question for  
you, and this can be done

by a show of hands, however you wanna do.

How much do you feel like  
you know about the rights

of disabled people throughout  
Florida and the United States?

Do you feel like you're very informed,

kind of informed or not informed?

Anyone feel like they're very informed?

Raise your hands.

I see two.

- This is Priya.

I'm seeing a couple of twos.

Couple of threes.

- Yeah, I'm seeing them too.

Okay, twos and threes.

Okay, and we'll see if we  
can move that a little bit.

And you're not gonna come  
out of here an expert.

You'll come out of here with a little more

information than you have already.

Next, please.

Why is it important to  
know what our rights are?

Well, we can't protect our rights

if we don't know what they are.

We can't make them up and  
say, these are our rights.

We need to know what our rights are

and what our rights aren't.

Other people misunderstand  
or ignore our rights decades

after the signing of the ADA

and 50 years after signing  
of the Rehabilitation Act.

So we get know our rights

'cause people are ignoring our rights

and not following our rights.

Disability rights won't solve everything.

They don't go far enough.

But knowing something about them

can help you stay independent.

And that's really important.

Next, please.

Let's look at some realities.

Disasters in Florida, as you know

and everywhere increasing,  
knowing your rights

in disasters can help keep you alive,

out of nursing facilities

and stay independent in the community.

It isn't fair that disabled people

have to learn about their rights.

We shouldn't have to learn  
about our rights, but we do.

And lots of people fought really hard

and put their lives at risk

and lost their lives to  
make sure we had our rights.

Lots of people with disabilities did that.

So we just need to learn.

Next please.

We talk a lot about civil rights.

Thought it'd be good to tell  
you what civil rights are.

Civil rights, if you don't know already,

civil rights are personal  
rights guaranteed

and protected by the Constitution

and federal laws enacted by Congress.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 is  
an example of a civil right

and the Americans with Disabilities Act

of 1990 is an example of a civil right.

Civil rights include protection

from unlawful discrimination.

Next, please.

And if you leave here  
with one thing today,

I think the thing I want  
you to leave here with

is that civil rights  
to people disabilities,

our rights are never suspended.

They're never stopped,  
including during disasters.

We still have our legal protections

no matter what the disaster is.

Next, please.

So what do we mean by disability rights

and what are some of the rights,  
those rights in disasters?

Does anybody know some of the rights

we have now in disasters?

Anybody?

I'll give you some time to type

or to raise your hand or.

And you don't have to be correct.

You don't even have to be  
correct to get a fabulous prize.

- This is Priya.

Mio, who uses she her pronouns,

shares right to shelters.

- Right to shelters, yes.

- Michael adds right to  
evacuation assistance.

- Yes, right to evacuation assistance.

Yes.

Are we putting this on  
the slide, Priya, or no?

- Yes, absolutely.

I am.

- If you can a second.  
- Yeah.

- So right to shelters and  
right to evacuation assistance.

- Getting that going.

- And I see right to shelter  
with your service animal.

Yay.

Yay, that's a really, really important one

because they get that  
wrong a lot of the time.

We're gonna talk about that.

And you get a fuchsia colored super ball.

I didn't see who saw that.

But you have a super ball.

Fabulous prize.

So I see ASL interpreters.

Yes.

And whoever said ASL interpreters,

you get a fabulous prize.

You get, you get a little balloon.

Assistive technology.

Yes.

Other rights?

I just wanted to get you  
thinking, that's why.

And all the things you said are rights.

We had not rights yet  
in case someone came up

with something we didn't have yet.

But these are great and  
we're gonna go through this

and we're gonna talk about these things,

but we just wanted to brainstorm  
it together for a minute.

So Priya, we can go to the next slide?

Unless there's something else  
you wanted to put in here.

- There is one comment  
I just wanted to add.

I see from Chris,

I always add inclusion  
representation and access.

- Inclusion.  
- Representation and access.

- Inclusion, representation and access.

We have the right to inclusion.

We have the right to access.

We don't have the legal  
right to representation.

We should have it.

That's one of the not  
right, not rights yet thing.

We don't have that right.

It's not a law yet.

But we could work on  
making that, you know more,

having more people with  
disabilities represented.

But thank you very much for saying that.

You get another sparkly silver super ball.

One of the little ones you throw.

Okay, so laws that, some of the laws

that protect people with  
disabilities during disasters

and every day are the Section 504

of the Rehabilitation Act

and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Raise your hand if you've  
heard of section 504.

Are there hands raised?

- This is Priya.

I'm seeing a couple of hands

and a couple of clapping emojis.

- Yay, okay.

Hands and clapping emojis are are great.

And if you've never heard of section 504

of the Rehabilitation Act,

you're gonna learn a little bit about it.

Next, please.

Like right now.

And we go to the next slide.

Section 504 of the  
Rehabilitation Act applies

to any agency, organization, business

that gets money from  
the federal government.

This could be a state agency,

it could be a local government  
agency like a city, town,

county, business, nonprofits,  
or other organizations.

Next, please.

If an organization, business  
or agency gets money,

a penny literally from  
the federal government,

it can't discriminate against  
people with disabilities.

Programs and services must  
be accessible to people

with disabilities, including  
sign language interpreters.

We're gonna talk about that in a few.

And section 504 obligations  
are nearly identical

to title two of the ADA.

So if you learn title two of the ADA,

you don't have to learn a new law of 504

'cause they're the same.

We'll talk about what triggers them.

Next, please.

The Americans with  
Disabilities Act, the ADA.

Next.

ADA has five titles or sections.

First is employment, second is title two.

State and local government,  
they call 'em entities.

That just means agencies,  
cities, towns, that stuff,

public schools, places  
the public accommodation,

that's places you go.

Including parks, any  
place that's gonna protect

you in a disaster.

Places the public goes,  
nonprofit organizations.

It's also your doctor's  
office, your lawyer's office,

the movie theater and those things.

But it's places you go in  
disasters that aren't operated

by the government or religious entity.

Religious entities aren't covered.

Telecommunications and miscellaneous.

Today we're just talking  
about titles two and three.

Next.

The ADA was passed in 1990

and it protects the civil rights

to people disabilities even

when there's no government money involved.

So I'm gonna go to the next slide

and look at some of the  
differences and similarities.

504 stops federally funded agencies

and programs from  
discriminate against people

with disabilities when  
there's federal money.

So if I get a dollar from  
the federal government,

I can't discriminate against  
people with disabilities.

The ADA doesn't have to  
have federal funds spent.

Title two, which we said applies to state

and government organizations,

provides the same protections as 504.

Okay, so 504, you have  
to have federal money.

Who gives federal money and disasters?

FEMA, if FEMA funding it, 504 applies.

And ADA might apply as well

to another government agency.

Next.

It's really important  
to remember the goals

of the ADA and 504.

It's to create a level  
playing field for people

with disabilities through  
integration, full participation

and equal opportunity.

It doesn't give us anything extra.

It makes us, so we have equal  
rights as everybody else.

Okay, levels the playing field.

Next.

So talk about disabled people.

What do I mean by disabled under the law?

We all know what I mean by disabled,

but let's go through it by the law.

Who has a disability?

Under the ADA and section  
504 of the Rehab Act,

the same definition.

You've got a disability  
and these are their words.

They're fancy words.

If you're substantially limited in one

or more major life activity.

We'll look what that means.

You have a history or record  
of having a disability

or others regard you  
as having a disability

and they discriminate against you.

And even if you don't say I'm  
a person with a disability,

even if you don't identify as  
somebody with a disability,

you might have protections under the ADA.

If you're someone who deaf,  
you probably don't identify

as somebody with a disability.

But guess what?

You still got protections under the ADA

and you're considered disabled.

And that's how we get the right  
to interpreters and stuff.

Next, please.

Under the ADA Amendments  
Act, we mended it in 2008,

major life activities.

So if you're substantial, limited,

if you're really limited in  
doing a major life activity,

you have a disability.

What's a major life activity?

Caring for yourself.

Performing manual tasks,  
things you do with your hands,

seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping.

Reading through all these,  
access, walking, standing,

lifting, bending, speaking, breathing,

reading, learning, concentrating,

thinking, communicating, working

and major bodily functions.

And the next slide.

And major bodily functions  
under the ADA Act of 2008.

Clarify that major life activities

include major bodily functions.

That's functions of the immune  
system, normal cell growth,

digestive bowel, bladder,  
neurological, respiratory, brain,

circulatory, endocrine and reproductive.

And we want to make it really clear

in that Congress would make  
want to make it really clear

in that HIV aids is covered,

cancer's covered, Crohn's,  
autoimmune diseases,

and disabilities are covered.

Lupus covered and long Covid

when it substantially  
limits a major life activity

is covered.

Next, please.

Now that we know who has a disability

and who's covered, let's look  
at what our actual rights are.

Disaster related programs and services

must not discriminate against  
people with disabilities.

They can't do that.

Now what do we mean by discrimination?

That's what we're gonna look at next.

So emergency and disaster related programs

and services, they can't discriminate.

Let's look at some of the programs

and services they provide.

So not just the, it is  
the disaster shelter

and the disaster recovery centers

inclusive of all those things.

But it's also the disaster  
planning meetings.

That means there needs  
to be an interpreter

at the planning meeting.

That means invitations

that are sent out have to be accessible.

Emergency alerts,  
transportation when it's offered

to others, shelters have to  
be accessible, like I said,

disaster recovery center  
and exercises and drills.

When they practice disasters,  
they have to be accessible

and inclusive of people with disabilities.

Next, please.

Notification.

Notification, and again,  
I'm the messenger.

I'm telling what the law is,  
not what I think it should be.

Notifications should be ASL interpreted

and must be live caption.

That's the laws.

They have to use  
alternatives to door knocks

to notify people like strobe lights

and maps must be accessible to people

with visual disabilities  
if they're using maps

and giving out maps.

Next, please.

Now, disaster shelters,  
disaster recovery center

and points of distribution  
of food and water,

they call them PODs,

must be accessible to  
people with disabilities.

That means they have to be ADA compliant.

You might think of that  
as wheelchair accessible

but accessible to a whole bunch  
of people with disabilities.

But they have to have ADA  
compliant paths of travel,

entrances and exits,  
registration, where you sign up.

Sleeping areas if it's a shelter,

eating areas, if it's a  
shelter or food is offered.

And restrooms, including  
showers, have to be accessible

to people with mobility disabilities.

Okay, next.

Programs and services must provide

equally effective communication.

This means they must provide services

including sign language interpreters,

including tactile interpreters

or other interpreters  
for deaf-blind people.

Video relay interpreting, VRI.

Accessible electronic material

so it's compatible with a  
screen reader and large print.

And they're allowed to provide VRI

and VRI isn't as good  
for lots of deaf people.

As long as as if it's equally,

if it's effective, they  
can get away with it.

VRA isn't effective sometimes

so I'd argue that they have  
to provide an interpreter.

But if they can't get them,

sometimes they're providing VRI.

And some, there's some  
communities that prefer VRI.

Lots of deaf communities don't prefer it.

Next, please.

Programs and services that  
make must make reasonable

modifications to policies and practice.

They have to change things.

Sometimes it's called  
reasonable accommodation.

That's not the right term.

They can be modifications.

That's providing quiet areas for people

that get overstimulated by noise.

And lots of people being around.

Admitting service animals,

you said that already.

Shelters have to allow  
service animals, period.

Allowing you to bring  
your personal assistance

or providing personal assistance,

providing specific diet requirements.

If you need a low sugar  
diet, low salt diet.

Plain language and pictograms,

sometimes they have to do those.

A modification to policy of  
practice if you don't read.

Next, please.

Because of a disability.

Okay.

It's discrimination to  
charge for accommodations.

You can't say you have to  
pay for your own interpreter

and you can't say you have to pay

for your own interpreter.

You can't say you have to pay

for a building to be accessible.

You can't do that.

You can't have criteria that  
screen out disabled people.

You can't say you can't be in the shelter

if you use injectable meds

or you can't otherwise  
not provide equal access

disaster related programs and services.

Now we're gonna do some scenarios.

And we're gonna get to a point

that was made in the comments.

Okay, so you're deaf,

you're checking into a disaster shelter.

Shelter staff indicate that you'll have

to communicate using notes.

They ask if the person

with you can interpreter,  
what should you do?

Is it required that a  
sign language interpreter

or video remote interpreting either?

They're checking the shelter,

they're saying they'll write you notes

or they wanna know if the  
person with you can interpret.

And there's folks in the audience  
that are experts in this.

- This is Priya.

I just wanted to read Oscar's comment

just so that we're all on the same page.

And then I wanna turn to Juan.

Oscars says, "Service animals, yes."

"Emotional support animals, no."

In relation to being allowed  
into shelters and the like.

- And service animals, yes.

Emotional support animals  
if it's considered housing

and people are staying there,

we are saying that emotional  
support animals under HUD,

under fair housing acts have  
the right to be in a shelter,

but not in a disaster recovery center.

So thank you for bringing that up.

That was great.

- Very important point.

- And Priya, I saw another chat fly by me.

- Yeah, I wanted to turn to Juan first

because I saw-  
- Okay, thank you.

- That first.

- Hello, can everyone see me?

Okay, great, awesome.

Okay, I just wanted to clarify  
a short thing here with VRI

most deaf communities  
typically do not like VRI.

And I know that was said  
and I do wanna clarify that

that is something for me.

But it honestly, it depends a  
lot on the internet connection

because the wifi can have  
issues that creates delays

and the interpreter freezing.

And that's extremely frustrating.

I always want clear communication

and that's why I do prefer  
an in-person interpreter

or a quote unquote live  
interpreter for that reason.

But when we're thinking  
about hospitals or schools,

when those wifis are well connected,

then absolutely that's fine.

But thinking about this situation

where a natural disaster  
may have just happened,

often the wifi, the  
internet is entirely down.

And that creates a lot of issues where,

what does that look like to  
have an interpreter on a screen

when the wifi isn't working,  
when there's, it's overloaded

where there's these  
issues where we're going

to be sitting there for maybe an hour

or two waiting, trying  
to get clarification.

That's the thing in the back  
of my head with that situation.

So I just wanted to add that clarification

in regards to sign language.

I think what you're seeing here, you know,

we've seen on the news some  
issues with fake interpreters.

And I know that there's  
these possibilities

where someone goes, oh, we  
need an interpreter right now.

Okay, does someone know sign language?

And someone just raises  
their hand and goes, sure.

And then they're not an interpreter

and the people in charge have no idea

the qualification needed  
for an interpreter.

And so they just bring someone over

and they maybe know some sign  
language and they go ahead

and they use them for the news

and then you see them on the news

and they're doing mistakes.

And the whole deaf community  
is now at a loss of access.

So I just wanna talk  
about those two things.

And then one more thing  
that I wanted to say

before I forget.

I've noticed something so far recently

with the deaf community dealing with CDI

so those are certified deaf interpreters.

And we saw them about two years ago.

We saw them more often

because we'd have a  
certified deaf interpreter.

We'd have other deaf  
interpreters who were training

or qualified and community certified.

And that was absolutely great.

It was a wonderful thing  
that we saw being brought

into the community more.

And I noticed that there were a few deaf

who relied on that communication level.

And so then they would,  
when they were interacting,

which is an interpreter,  
they would not along,

but they wouldn't fully understand.

But then if they brought  
in a deaf interpreter

who could really create natively,

interpret into their language,

then it was an entirely  
different accessibility point.

And so, just something  
interesting to think about.

I don't wanna talk too long.

I'll give it back to you, Melissa,

- Thank you so much.

And I agree with everything you said.

We don't have a legal right  
to deaf interpreters yet,

but that's something  
that should be, you know,

that we can argue, that we can  
advocate for and argue for.

And also one of the things when

about having interpreters versus VRI,

VRI shouldn't be the plan and a disaster.

Oh, our plan is to have VRI.

No, your plan should  
be interpreters first.

And thank you for saying that.

Other comments, Priya.

Thank you so much, Juan.

- This is Priya.

I wanted to read Mio's comment,

which is ask for an interpreter.

- Ask for an interpreter.

So you ask for an interpreter

and you might have to say,

is it required there'd be an interpreter?

Yes.

Either an interpreter or  
VRI ask for an interpreter.

If they don't have an interpreter.

What are some thoughts  
about what you could do?

Where could you call?

- This is Priya.

While folks are thinking about the answer

to that important question,

I wanted to read a couple more comments.

And a question.

- Thank you.  
- Oscar adds,

Mr. Comerio brings up a great point.

Shelters in South Florida  
are typically activated

for hurricanes, which often  
knock out communications.

Absolutely, absolutely.

I think this is, this next  
question is really important.

I'm not sure if we're gonna  
have time for it right now,

but I'm sure we'll,

but I'll let you be the  
judge of that, Melissa.

Brian Russell asks, hi Melissa,

can you please clarify the type

of shelters allowing  
emotional support animals?

Would this be for long-term  
recovery shelters as opposed

to immediate slash irregular shelters?

- I would say both,

but I wanna have another conversation

with you about, maybe  
we can email afterwards.

We can send you something  
in writing about that.

'Cause that's a little bit complicated.

But yes.

And so where are some places you can call

if you're not getting  
provided an interpreter?

- This is Priya.

I see a thumbs up from Brian.

So that's a great plan moving forward.

- Thanks Brian.  
- I also see

Juan's hand up again.

- Okay, Juan.

- Okay, so with this question  
I wanted to clarify if,

if there's no interpreter,  
I mean it's going

to be impossible

because we know within  
the system with FEMA,

we already know that they,

and they already know  
that they're supposed

to have an interpreter there.

And you know, typically they don't know

if a deaf person is gonna show up or not.

So they should have an  
interpreter ready to go

as a preparation standard.

You know, rather than if no  
one shows up, that's fine.

But really it should be  
a required accessibility

that interpreter is there.

If there isn't, you  
could call a deaf agency,

request an interpreter,  
see who's available.

That would be fine.

That would be my initial thoughts there.

- Also, if they're refusing  
to do it, you could call

SIL of South Florida,  
ask for help with it.

You could also call  
Disability Rights Florida

and those numbers, if you're  
not with SIL of Florida

and it please, you know,

those are all in your resources  
below those phone numbers,

those numbers to connect with them.

Okay, call SIL and we  
asked an unfair question.

We didn't tell you where  
to call ahead of time,

but SIL South Florida, you folks.

And also Disability Rights  
Florida can help you

if they say no, we won't  
pay for an interpreter.

But yes, calling an interpreting  
agency is a great idea.

Thank you again, Juan.

Next please.

And again, we've kind of gone over this,

but you're told you can't  
check into a disaster shelter

with your service dog because the shelter

does not allow pets.

And I'm gonna go with the what do you do?

Who should you contact.

And who you should contact  
is the same people.

You wanna contact maybe  
Disability Rights Florida,

Disability Rights Florida can help you.

They do deal with legal  
issues around those things.

Or maybe the Center for  
Independent Living South Florida

can help you.

Next, please.

I'm gonna go through this real quickly.

You have celiac disease, which cause you

to get very sick when you eat  
food that contains gluten.

You told that there's no  
gluten-free food available

in the shelter you're staying in.

What do you do?

Any comments?

Do you have a right to  
food without gluten?

- Yeah.

This is little Lili.

Yes, you do.

- Yes you do.

Yay, fabulous prize.

Fabulous prize.

You get a a little skateboard,

a finger skateboard that  
you can use in your desk.

Yes, you have a right.

Remember when I said

that they have to modify  
policies, practices

and procedures not to discriminate.

And they can do dietary  
accommodations or specific diets.

Something like gluten-free  
they have to do.

So you have a right to it  
and you can tell them that.

And again, contact  
Disability Rights Florida

if they give you a hard time.

Contact the center if  
they give you a hard time.

I see Juan has his hand up.

You're fine.

Okay, thank you.

- I was just gonna say the  
same thing that Lili was saying

and with this in mind  
that with food allergies,

that people need to have those  
ready to go and have that

because that's obviously a big issue

and I experienced that as well.

So it's something that, you  
know, definitely being prepared

and make sure they have that ready to go

and have accessibility areas

for different dietary restrictions.

For example, like a peanut free area.

That's something that has to  
be prepared for in the sense

of a disaster where someone can go

if they have a severe peanut allergy,

to respect those who need to stay healthy.

And so that might be an area

where they don't have any peanuts allowed.

Something of that nature.

- Great.

And next slide, we're gonna  
have a couple questions

and then we're gonna have a break.

- I apologize Melissa, I  
wanted to read this question

and I think it's fantastic.

Very important question.

Michael asks, so if they  
don't have those food choices,

do you go elsewhere and what  
if you can't go elsewhere?

- They have the obligation to  
get those food choices there.

It's their obligation to find the food

that is accessible to you.

So it's their job to figure it out.

Does that make sense?

Okay, I'm seeing a yes.

Thank you.

Yes.

Any other questions?

We are gonna take and  
go to the next slide,

a 10 minute break.

So it is now 11:45 exactly.

And so at 11:45 we will rejoin.

Thank you, everybody.

- This is Priya, just to  
clarify, at 11:55 we will rejoin.

- Did I say 11:45?

11:55.

See I didn't wanna take a break. (laughs)

Of course I wanna break.

Bye-bye.

See you soon.

Okay, are people back and refreshed

and ready to start?

Priya, are we seeing people there?

- This is Priya I, oh gosh, sorry.

I have a cat that is very excited.

I am seeing some folks, yes.

- Okay.

And I see a question if you can

read that Priya, 'cause I'm not gonna?

- Of course.

Jose asks, hi there,  
kind of a big question,

but how can we support each other

when these rights are violated?

FEMA seems to have many legal obligations

that they don't follow.

What should we do when these  
obligations are not met?

What is the role of CERT trainings

and community-based support systems?

- Okay, first of all, you  
get a red, a red sports car.

You get a red Corvette, a miniature one

'cause that is an amazing question

and we're gonna talk about it.

How can you support each other?

I think by coming to trainings like this,

by having contacts.

So if you have a list  
when you're doing planning

by yourself, when you're doing planning,

like you are for emergencies  
and you have a contact list

of people you wanna be in touch with

and disasters, have advocates on it.

So you can advocate for each other.

Have other deaf people,

have other disabled people being on it.

And that's really important.

So you can support each  
other when it happens.

And before that become part of the table.

Go to planning meetings,

make sure you're at the planning meetings.

Make sure other people that are deaf,

other people that are disabled are there.

And that's really important

so you can help support each other, okay?

Does that start to answer the question?

So we can be together in this.

And CERT stands for, and I  
know what this stands for

and it just takes me a second,

is Community Emergency Response Teams.

Community Emergency Response Teams.

And CERT teams, Community  
Emergency Response Teams, yes.

Yes, see I got it right.

It was, it was in my head,

I just couldn't quite pull it out.

But thank you so much, Oscar.

That's great.

So those teams learn and  
help people know what

to do in disasters and  
support people in the response

and they go in and to get  
as many disabled people

and CERT teams is really important too.

Educating CERT teams will becoming part

of CERT teams is really important.

So thank you very much  
for bringing that up.

Yay.

Thank you, thank you.

The next slide, Priya.

Now we're gonna talk about special needs

registries and shelters.

And next please.

Special needs shelters and registries

happen in other states,  
but Florida is unique.

You know how Florida is unique?

Florida's great in many ways.

Florida is unique in many ways.

I wanna talk about some disclaimers

that Florida has special  
needs shelters and registries.

And I wanna make clear the  
partnership's position.

The partnership doesn't support the idea

of special registries

for disabled people in shelters,

including deaf people of course.

The partnership does not support

the outdated term of special needs.

Now Florida, 'cause you're Florida

and some other states has a law

that requires special needs registries.

Now Florida is the only state

that legally requires a special registry

for disabled people in disasters.

We don't think it's a good idea.

Other states like North  
Carolina, Texas, Illinois,

have laws that authorize registries

saying you could have them,  
but it doesn't require.

Florida requires it under your law.

So that makes Florida different here.

So that's why we're gonna spend  
some time talking about it.

Next, please.

So the main purpose of  
a special needs registry

is to include access to  
transportation and shelter,

guaranteed power, except  
when they don't have power,

just saying.

And special needs shelters can provide

additional medical services

to the general population  
shelters might not have.

Next please.

That's what they set.

In Florida to get access  
to a special needs shelter,

we put special needs in quote,

people should be registered

to the Florida Special Needs Registry.

Now what it says on the website,

these are words from their website.

This is why there's so  
many words in this slide.

Completing the Florida Special  
Needs Registry does not mean

you'll automatically qualify  
for special needs shelter.

People with disabilities  
are encouraged to register

before an event to try  
to ensure transportation.

But if a disabled person shows up,

this is not from the the website.

But if a disabled person shows up

at the special needs shelter,

they shouldn't be turned away.

And the individual should be added

to the register on the spot.

So you're encouraged to register

but you don't have to register.

That's from folks in  
Florida that are advocates,

I believe from your state  
independent living council.

But you don't automatically get on

because you've registered.

Next, please.

During an emergency, the government,

other agencies might not  
be able to meet your needs.

You should be prepared  
to take care of yourself

and your loved ones for  
minimum of 72 hours.

Those individuals with  
special needs are encouraged

to identify an emergency support network

and build a disaster supply kit.

Registering in this website,  
this is on the Florida website,

does not guarantee that  
emergency officials will be able

to assist you in emergency.

Next.

Eligibility for special needs shelters.

People with, this is  
quote from the website,

people with special medical needs.

People's care exceeds the basic first aid

provided at general population shelters.

People with impairments

or disabilities who are medically stable,

who do not require medical care,

people, disabilities are not required

to go to special needs shelter.

Some people disabilities  
can be safely accommodated

at general population shelter.

Now we think, next please,  
everyone can be accommodated

at a general shelter or as we  
call it an integrated shelter.

And I would argue that's  
required under the law.

But Florida has a special needs shelters

you need to know about.

Special needs shelters  
promote segregated services.

Just the disabled people  
are over here in the shelter

and we don't really care  
what happens about them

and we're gonna separate  
them from their families.

It contradicts the ADA  
requirement that says

people with disabilities have the right

to services in the same  
place as everybody else.

And it can increase institutionalization.

People can get dumped  
in nursing facilities

from special needs shelters.

Next please.

Now registries are expensive.

They're not always used disasters.

And Houston has this huge registry system

they put all this money into

and sometimes they don't even use it.

And it's also based on the assumption

that disabled people are always at home.

It makes it really hard to find us.

They can't locate us.

And what the registries do

that is dangerous is they  
create false expectations

on part of the disabled person

that I'm gonna be taken care of

and I don't need to do anything.

I don't need to plan.

You need to take care of yourself,

you need to plan for yourself.

And I'm really happy for the  
people doing disaster planning.

So congratulations to you.

Next, please.

Okay, you've been, this is a scenario.

You've been evacuated from your home

because it was damaged during a hurricane.

Your local shelter tells you to go

to a special needs shelter.

You wanna stay at a local  
shelter with your family.

What can you do?

Who do you contact?

You don't have to go to  
the special needs shelter.

Does everybody know you don't have to go

to special needs shelter  
if you don't want to?

You can go to a general shelter,

an integrated shelter with your family.

They give you a hard time,

contact Disability Rights Florida

and contact SIL of South Florida.

Those are some resources and  
we have a bunch of resources.

The last two slides are all resources.

Okay, makes sense?

Does anyone any questions about that?

And I see, correct, they cannot force you

unless you're a danger to others.

Yes, yes, if you're a danger to others

and that's really subjective,

but they can't force you to  
go to special needs shelter

and arguably why you're  
in a special need shelter

if you're a danger to others.

And there's a whole bunch  
of stuff involved in it.

But yes, you get a fabulous prize

of your choice for that question.

That is great.

You get whatever you want  
from our fabulous prize bag.

Next slide please, Priya.

- As we go into the next slide,  
I did see Juan's hand up.

- Ah, Juan.

- I wanted to get some clarification

about the previous scenario.

I was wondering if a deaf person,

I just wanna know for  
the communication aspect

with family during a disaster,

I mean it's, it there's a lot  
of communication breakdown,

maybe they provide interpreters

or maybe they have deaf people there.

- Yes, true.

- And they wanna communicate there.

So what do they do?

I was thinking about that.

- They're required to have  
interpreters at the shelters

or VRI at the shelters.

- Yeah, yeah, I get that.

But you were recently explaining  
the scenario where it said,

oh, like going to a general shelter

or a special needs shelter.

So me as a deaf person,  
I mean I'm thinking

that there's no interpreter,

but if they have deaf people there,

then that would make me wanna go there

because I can communicate  
with other people.

So then I might, again,  
I might accept going

to a special needs  
shelter without my family.

- That's your choice and  
that's always your choice.

But guess what?

You have the right to interpreters

in whatever shelter you go to.

And deaf people can go to  
whatever shelter they want

or they don't have to go  
to the separate shelter.

Does that make sense Juan?

Thank you.

Okay.  
- Yes, thank you

for clarifying that for the  
people so that they get it.

Thanks.

- You're welcome.

And we'll go to the next scenario, Priya,

on the next slide.

- This is Priya.

I also see Princess Harper.

Harper's hand up.

- Okay, Princess.

- Hi Princess here.

I just wanted to know what  
protections are there for people

with mental illnesses during disasters?

I saw that someone wrote  
that you don't have to,

you wouldn't go to a special  
needs center if you're,

unless you're a, they cannot force you

unless you're a danger to others.

For example, what if someone  
has like a mental breakdown

or a psychotic break during a hurricane,

how would that be accommodated?

- And thank you so much for  
asking that question, Princess.

And we're gonna have some scenarios

around that as we get to it.

But people with psychiatric disabilities,

mental health conditions,  
however you wanna frame it,

have the right to services in  
the most integrated setting

appropriate to their needs.

And you shouldn't be  
civilly committing people.

You should be, but you  
shouldn't be civilly

committing people.

In shelters whether the  
special needs shelters

are general needs shelters

if they feel like someone's a danger.

But if they feel like someone's a danger,

it's really fuzzy.

They shouldn't, they overly civilly

commit people and they shouldn't.

They need to know some basic, basic

emotional first aid kinds of things.

They need to know, they need  
to know those basic skills

and they don't always know them.

And that's something you should advocate

for when you're doing your planning about

how you interact with someone.

And sometimes someone's seeing someone

behaving slightly differently.

Like they talk a little bit louder,

say, oh, they're dangerous.

Well, just 'cause you're scared  
doesn't make me dangerous.

It makes you scared.

And learning what behaviors,  
what's actually dangerous,

what's not actually dangerous.

Does that help a little bit?

- For sure.

And even like if you are under a state

of psychological duress,  
if you're a person of color

or a black person, if anything,

you are more likely to be harmed.

- Yes.  
- You're more likely

to be killed.  
- Yes.

- So, yeah.  
- Oh absolutely, positively.

If people with a psychiatric disability

are no more likely than anyone

else to be violent, in  
fact they're more likely

to be targets of violence.

And again, if they have more  
than one marginalized identity,

like they're black person,  
they're person of color,

they're any marginalized identity  
that makes it more likely

that there're going to  
be targets of violence.

And also that they end up  
in the carceral system.

That they end up in the correction system.

- Yeah, thank you.

- And so that's something  
we always need to talk

and we always need to plan for,

what's gonna happen

and say when they're  
planning for disaster.

Okay, what's, say this person

engages in behavior that you  
interpret as threatening.

Well is it really threatening?

Probably not.

It's probably not really a threat to them.

And we're gonna talk  
about that when we talk

about some of the Baker Act stuff.

- Thank you.

- Thank you for bringing that up.

Next please.

Oh, okay, questions?

Okay, next slide.

Institutionalization  
during and after disasters.

And we're gonna get more  
to Princess's question

and some others too.

But let's brainstorm.

Why are institutions bad for  
people with disabilities?

Throw it in the chat.

Raise your hand.

- This is Priya.

I'm seeing unsafe.

I'm seeing form of discrimination

and isolating people from society.

I'm seeing rids them  
of their independence.

I'm seeing take away your  
rights to self-determination,

stigmatized by people who are supposed

to be helping like  
hospital workers or aides.

Uneducated, unnecessary duress.

Unable to get employed.

- Yep, you all get plastic  
monster finger puppets

of your choice.

These are all great answers.

These are why institutions are bad.

These are all reasons people  
are not able to thrive.

Yes.

And unable to get employed.

We're gonna look at the  
next slide real quick.

And we're, you did our work for us though.

And people in institutions lose  
independence, you know this.

Lose jobs, lose their homes,  
lose community connections,

get sick and die earlier.

We learn that really clearly  
about getting sick or sicker

and dying earlier in Covid.

And we knew that ahead of time  
but now we have more proof.

Next slide please.

People get institutionalize in disasters

there's this thing called 1135 waiver

and it's a waiver from Centers  
for Medicare and Medicaid.

And during disasters that waiver tends to,

it is issued routinely now.

And in Covid they issued a blanket waiver

and a many disasters issued blanket waiver

where they don't even have to request it.

The state doesn't even have to ask for it.

So say you call 911

because your personal  
assistant didn't show up

and you can't get outta bed  
and you can't use the bathroom.

They can say, oh you should  
go to a nursing home.

Or you can refer someone

to a nursing home from an emergency room,

an emergency department,

or a hospital room if it'll  
benefit another patient.

'Cause when there's not the waiver,

you have to be in the  
hospital for three days

before they can refer you  
to a nursing facility.

But with this, they don't have to do

the three day requirement.

The other way you can  
get institutionalized

during a disaster, and this is the point

that Princess was bringing up,

is by civil commitment  
under the Baker Act.

And everybody know what the Baker Act is?

The Baker Act is a civil  
commitment act in Florida.

And I first learned about the Baker Act

during Hurricane Irma way back then,

where they're saying to people,

okay, you're experiencing homelessness.

We want you to go to shelter.

And the person's saying, I  
don't wanna go to shelter.

Doesn't matter why they  
don't wanna go to shelter,

maybe they don't wanna go to shelter

'cause they don't wanna.

Maybe they don't wanna go to shelter

because they know they're  
gonna get civilly committed

once they go to the shelter.

And they're looking at ahead

of time committing people  
under the Baker Act,

they're looking at Baker acting people

because they didn't wanna go to a shelter.

Now if you're someone who's housed

and lives in a house, you can say,

I know the hurricane's coming

probably you all know people have done it,

I'm gonna stay.

That might be an unwise decision,

but nobody civilly commits 'em.

But if you're homeless  
and if you have other

marginalized identities  
like your a person of color,

all of those things factor into you

getting civilly committed  
under the Baker Act

or because people are  
scared of your behavior.

When you go to shelter,

people are intimidated by your behavior.

People don't understand.

And so you can get civilly  
committed under the Baker Act

and you get institutionalized  
from shelters,

especially from a special needs shelter.

Just go to the nursing  
home for a few days.

I talk about the example in Connecticut

and we don't have lots of disasters

where people are at shelters here.

But our friend used a vent

and they told her the  
shelters inaccessible

just go to the nursing facility.

So it happens from shelters.

Next, please, Priya.

Again, leave with this.

People with disabilities have the right

to services in the most integrated setting

appropriate to their needs.

That's from a Supreme Court decision

called the Olmsted decision.

It interprets the Americans  
with Disabilities Act.

We don't have a lot of time,

but lots of times you have the right not

to be in an institution  
in the community always.

Next please.

And we're gonna skip six and go seven.

Ah, again, the Baker Act.

What do you do if you're someone

who's threatened with civil commitment,

either 'cause you won't go to  
shelter for some other reason,

or you are in a shelter

and you're threatened  
with civil commitment,

what do you do and who do you contact?

Princess, do you have ideas about this?

- No, especially now

'cause I do know that  
they've made homeless,

being unsheltered illegal  
in Miami Beach now.

So if you're on the street

and you don't go to a shelter,

they can't just only Baker act you,

they can arrest you so.

- And that's how you end  
up in either the carceral,

the prison system or  
the carceral institution

and where you can't leave.

And the difference between  
a nursing facility,

if I say I wanna leave a nursing facility

and I have the resources to go, I can,

if I've been civilly  
committed to an institution,

I can't under the law.

And that's a big difference.

And it's a huge discussion to have.

I would call Disability Rights  
Florida and talk to them.

Legal services in your area, talk to them.

But I connect with  
Disability Rights Florida,

they have the PAIMI,

which is protection and  
advocacy for individuals

with mental illness program there.

And that's something if  
they're not working on now,

they should be working on,  
you might wanna bring it

to them as a priority.

That help, not help?

It doesn't solve anything, but you know.

But it's something we  
all need to be aware of.

We all need to, we all  
need to support each other.

When someone commits the  
crime of not having a house,

it's really pretty outrageous.

And we see this in other places as well.

Next, please.

Okay, disability rights and disasters.

Let's do a quick review.

Whenever disaster related  
programs and services

are provided to the general  
public, they must be accessible

and inclusive of people with disabilities.

Sorry, I jumped ahead.

I've got a separate screen here.

Shelters can't deny entry  
because you're disabled.

You have the right to physically

and otherwise ADA compliant,  
physically accessible

and otherwise ADA compliance shelters.

You have the right to equally  
effective communication.

Examples are American Sign  
Language Interpreters,

large print, braille,  
assistive technology.

Next, you have the 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 the right not

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

Fortunately, if you're civilly committed,

you lose the right not to  
go into an institution.

You must go and that's required under law.

And that's something again,  
working with advocacy groups

around how and when, if that is ever done

and should be done.

And during disasters it's a really

inappropriate thing that happens.

More people get scared in disasters

and people get scared of people

with psychiatric disabilities.

There's lots of stigma attached to that.

Lots of ableism, frankly.

You know, lots of ableism around the idea

of people's psychiatric disabilities.

And again, remember,  
remember disability rights

are suspended, are never  
suspended during disasters.

So when are they never suspended?

During disasters.

We can go to the next slide.

Tips to stay out a special  
needs shelter during a disaster.

If you want to stay out,  
if you wanna go, you can.

But if you wanna stay  
out, know your rights.

You have the right not

to go into special needs  
shelter if you don't want to.

If you go to a special needs shelter,

don't separate from your loved ones.

They'll usually let you have  
one family member there.

Keep a contact list of friends, family,

neighbors and advocates with you.

Should do that in disaster  
planning generally anyway

and always have that.

And have a non-institutional place

you can evacuate to in a disaster

rather than a special needs shelter.

So have, maybe that's  
somebody else's house

that wasn't destroyed or wasn't damaged

if your house was destroyed or damaged.

Have another non-institutional place.

And that's important too for people

with psychiatric disabilities as well,

to think about those kinds of things.

Questions?

Start humming the Jeopardy  
music while you think about it.

- This is Priya.

I wanted to go back to a  
comment from Oscar, I believe.

Oscar says in chat, "Special,

and this is obviously of course,

when we're talking about  
special needs shelters

and you know, going to  
a special needs shelter

and when that is and is not appropriate."

Oscar says, "Special needs  
shelters may be better equipped

to assist with certain disabilities."

- Every shelter has the  
obligation to assist

with every disability

because shelters 'cause  
what they're saying,

the special needs shelter doesn't give you

above like regular medical stuff.

They don't do that.

Sometimes the advantage  
of special needs shelters,

they have a plug, they have electricity.

Every shelter has the obligation

to serve people with disabilities.

And sometimes a special needs  
shelter won't take people.

Like someone in Florida,  
I believe was in Florida,

who they refused him admission  
because he used oxygen.

And rather than work with  
him to get at the shelter,

what he chose to do is  
he found another place

to go in the community,  
found a friend's house

where it was safer and  
easier for him to be.

But all keep in mind, all  
shelters have the obligations

to provide the same services.

Sorry, paused for a minute

'cause I saw the interpreter frozen,

but that might've just been on my end

and she's not frozen.

Does that answer your question, Oscar?

- While Oscar is responding.

I wanna read some other comments in chat.

Jose says, "Not a  
question, but thank you."

This has been so informative.

Michael says, "Very engaging training."

"Thank you."

Princess shares thank you.

Thank you all for joining us.

And then Oscar adds, it  
was more of a comment.

- Okay, thank you.

For the next slides we have,

we're gonna go to 68.

We have resources and  
these are all linked.

You'll be getting a copy of these slides.

And that's the SIL of South Florida,

Disability Rights Florida.

That I've been talking about.

Southeast ADA center,

if you have ever had ADA questions

that you want answered reliably

that maybe the center can't answer,

they're a great resource.

They're also a great resource  
for the center to tap into.

Red Cross of Central  
Florida, 211 United Way,

the Florida Division of  
Emergency Management, or DEM,

the Florida DEM Access and  
Functional Needs Planning.

The Florida Voluntary  
Organizations Active in Disasters

or VOAD, V-O-A-D.

And the next.

Disability Rights and  
Immigrants Rights and Disasters.

There's a link there.

How to file a civil rights complaint

if your rights have been violated.

It walks you through that.

And that's also something  
the center can help you with

or Disability Rights  
Florida can help you with.

Redirecting Emergency Registries,  
Community Driven Solutions

and Preserving Our Freedom  
Ending Institutionalization

of Persons with Disabilities  
During and After Disasters.

And that's through NCD,

the National Council of Disabilities.

And then there's

the Partnership Disability  
and Disaster Hotline,

which is our hotline.

And the number for our hotline is 1-800,

so sorry, 626-4959.

That's 1-800-626-4959.

You can call us during disasters.

What we will do is connect  
you with your local resources

that are most appropriate.

So please contact us.

But we have, you still  
have some work to do.

Next slide.  
- And this is Shaylin.

Melissa, if I could just add

to the hotline number that  
can also be texted a call

or text number.  
- Yes, thank you.

- And in the link on the slide,

there is additional ways  
to contact us via email

and of course on our website as well.

- Thank you so much, Shaylin.

We'll go to the next slide.

Like I said, there's  
still work for you to do.

So I wanna know from you if you can share

with me what's the most  
important thing you learned

in the last 90 minutes today.

If you learn something  
8:00 AM, that's great.

But we wanna hear about

what you learned during this training.

I'll give you a few minutes  
to put stuff in the chat

or to raise your hand.

And after we ask you  
the most important thing

you learned in this training,

we also wanna know some other facts

you learned in this training today.

I see, don't settle for no.

Yes, yes.

Don't settle for no.

You get one of the long  
neck plastic dinosaurs.

It's green, Savier.

Keep fighting for your rights from Lili.

Yes.

And Lili gets a little, it's a  
dragon shaped water squirter.

Fabulous prize.

What else?

What's the thing that I most want you

to walk away with today?

I see Jose has a comment,  
if you can read it, Priya?

- Of course.  
- Thank you.

- This is Priya.

Jose says, "This is my  
introduction to this topic."

"Honestly, to not know  
how much is protected

and how many resources there are."

"Looking forward to sharing this

with the Miami Climate  
Alliance community."

- Wonderful, thank you.

That makes my day.

That makes my day.

Can anybody remember the thing

I said was most important  
you walk, leave with today?

Civil rights are not suspended when?

Yay, yay.

Civil rights are not never  
suspended during disasters.

That's really, really important.

Yes.

For that you get a small  
miniature sports car

of your choice that  
happens to be invisible.

But yes, civil rights are not  
suspended during disasters

'cause they can't say, oh we'd  
love to have an interpreter,

but you gotta understand it's a disaster.

No, they need to plan  
for it ahead of time.

This is where the disability  
needs to get involved

and then planning for it ahead of time

and putting together a solid plan.

And you being able to say to  
them, no VRI is not a plan

'cause lines go down, 'cause  
communication goes down.

What's your other plan?

So what are your other  
plan and what do you do?

You wanna be involved in the planning.

You want people with disabilities there.

They have the obligation,

if it's the government doing the planning,

it has to be in a  
physically accessible space.

The material has to be  
accessible to people

with visual disabilities and  
they have to have interpreters

or some kind or VRI or  
some kind of communication

to provide equally affected  
communication to people

that are deaf, blind or  
have of speech disabilities.

Just know that they  
always have to do that.

Doesn't mean they always do that.

Doesn't mean you don't  
have to fight for it.

But they always have that obligation.

Other questions, thoughts?

And we'll give you more information

about the emotional  
support animals at shelters

and what the theories are around that.

The theories is because a  
shelters housing under HUD

and there's obligations  
under the Fair Housing Act.

And it's just for shelters,

but it's for all kinds of shelters.

So thank you so much. Shaylin.

Do you have a survey you wanna talk about?

- This is Shaylin and thank you Melissa.

And thank you everyone  
for joining us today

for interacting in today's training,

for asking all of your great questions.

You know, this is how  
we all learn together

and really important that that we do

and continue the work  
in our local communities

and in our own personal lives.

I did just share in the chat  
a link to a quick survey

as we love to continue to learn

and grow in our delivery of trainings,

especially in the virtual world.

The training shouldn't take  
you more than five minutes.

And if you need it in  
an alternative format,

please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

There is an email at the top of the form

where you can reach out  
for an alternative format.

Really appreciate your time

and as Lili, I'm sure has  
let folks know at some point

that we will be having  
another training in the future

as we schedule that, everyone  
will surely be made aware

and that one will focus  
on personal preparedness

in disasters, especially for  
people with disabilities.

And we're looking forward

to continuing the  
conversations with you all.

Please don't hesitate  
to reach out in between

or if any questions come up.

And we'll work with  
folks SIL South Florida

to make sure that those  
questions get answered.

And of course, as we mentioned,

the recording of today's training

and the materials will be  
sent out following as well.

And I see Lili adding  
her email in the chat.

Thanks, Lili

- And thank you so much.

And I just wanna add, this is a lot

of material you we gave you today

and if you didn't get it all  
the first bounce, that's okay.

And you're gonna be getting  
copies of the slide deck

and it's always okay to  
keep asking questions

even when it's not during the training.

Keep asking us questions.

Thank you.

- Any last thing you'd  
like to add to that,

Lili or Xavier?

- I just wanna say thank you so much

for everyone participating  
in this training.

- Thank you all for coming.

Thank you for having us.

- Thank you all so much.

Please stay safe.

Don't hesitate to reach out in between

and we'll see you at the next one.

And thank you to our interpreters.

- Thank you.

- Thank you.

- Take care everyone.

Bye-Bye.