

Planning for the Whole Community

Integrating and Coordinating Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Children and Adults with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs Before, During and After a Disaster.

FEMA Region X

September 19th 2011



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“We don’t plan for easy in FEMA ... we plan for real.”

Administrator Fugate
March 2010



Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Mission Statement

Preparing individuals and families and strengthening communities before, during and after a disaster by providing guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management efforts to meet the needs of all citizens, including children and adults with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.



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Current Initiatives

- Whole Community Planning
- Regional Disability Integration Specialists
- CPG 101 v.2
- Functional Needs Support Services Guidance to States
- Diversity Council
- Grants Guidance
- Training (internal and external)



“Complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act is not optional”

FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate to the National Voluntary Agencies Active in Disasters Conference
May 2010



The words we use:

We hear it all the time – ‘special needs’ and ‘vulnerable.’ Both terms do damage. When people with disabilities are thought of as ‘special,’ they are often thought of as marginal individuals who have needs, not rights. The word ‘vulnerable’ has a similarly unfortunate effect. Vulnerable people must have things done for them; they’re recipients, not participants.

-CT P&A



The difference between the right word
and the almost right word is the
difference between lightning and a
lightning bug.

Mark Twain



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The National Response Framework

Definition

“Populations whose members may have additional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas, including but not limited to: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care.

Individuals in need of additional response assistance may include those who have disabilities; who live in institutionalized settings; who are elderly; who are children; who are from diverse cultures; who have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking; or who are transportation disadvantaged.”



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“However beautiful the strategy is, you should occasionally look at the results.”

Winston Churchill



Access and Functional Needs

The term "access and functional needs" means those actions, services, accommodations, and programmatic, architectural, and communication modifications that a covered entity must undertake or provide to afford individuals with disabilities a full and equal opportunity to use and enjoy programs, services, activities, goods, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations in the most integrated setting, in light of the exigent circumstances of the emergency and the legal obligation to undertake advance planning and prepare to meet the disability-related needs of individuals who have disabilities as defined by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, P.L. 110-325, and those associated with them.



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Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters

- Provides planning guidance to state emergency managers and shelter planners for meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters.
- Identifies methods for achieving a lawful and equitable program through the delivery of Functional Needs Support Services for children and adults.
- These services enable children and adults with disabilities and others with access and functional needs to maintain their health, safety and independence in a general population shelter.



Defining Functional Needs Support Services

- Services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in general population shelters. These services include:
 - Reasonable modifications to policies, practices and procedures
 - Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
 - Consumable Medical Supplies (CMS)
 - Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
 - Other goods and services as needed



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Who needs FNSS?



- Children and adults requiring FNSS may have:
 - Physical disabilities
 - Sensory disabilities
 - Mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities
- Others who may benefit from FNSS include:
 - Women in late stages of pregnancy
 - Elders
 - People needing bariatric equipment, transportation or communications assistance.



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Critically Important: Advanced Planning

- Children and adults with and without disabilities who have access and functional needs should not be sheltered separately from their families, friends and/or caregivers because services they require are not available to them in general population shelters.



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Minimum Provisions

- At a minimum make provisions for addressing needs in the following areas:
 - Dietary needs
 - Service animals
 - Communications
 - Bathing and toileting needs
 - Quiet area
 - Mental health services
 - Medical and dental services
 - Medication
 - Transportation services



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- Service Animal Plans should address:
 - Areas where animals can be housed, exercised and toileted
 - A reliable source for food and supplies (water bowls, leashes, collars)
 - How the information above will be communicated in alternative accessible formats



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“It is time children, people with disabilities or any other segment of our communities who have traditionally been underserved, to be more fully and consistently integrated into preparedness and planning efforts at every level of government.”

Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator



Personal Responsibility:

Personal responsibility before, during and after a disaster applies to people with disabilities just as it applies to people without disabilities. Although ability varies from person to person, educational and outreach efforts, information and tools must be made available to everyone.



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Integration in Action



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INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

When communities integrate the needs of children and adults with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into their community wide planning initiatives, they maximize resources, meet their obligations and strengthen their ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.



FEMA Region X

ESF 6 Contact

JoAnn Oram

joannoram@dhs.gov



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