



FEMA

National Advisory Council

February 19, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR: W. Craig Fugate
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FROM: James Featherstone
Chairman
FEMA National Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Recommendations from February 2016 NAC Meeting

The purpose of this memorandum is to forward the FEMA National Advisory Council (NAC) recommendations from the February 2016 meeting in Raleigh, NC for your consideration.

The NAC met in a public session to review the progress of its three subcommittees since its last meeting in September 2015 and to deliberate any potential recommendations set forth by these subcommittees.

Through discussions and deliberations, the NAC concurred to submit 14 recommendations to you in the following areas: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments, the National Flood Insurance Program, Active Shooters, Family Reunification, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Tool Compliance and Disability Inclusion in Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery. The recommendations are as follows:

I. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (3 recommendations)

Issue #1: There is no training at the federal level on how to conduct a basic data-driven risk assessment for either the HIRA or THIRA.

Recommendation 2016-16: FEMA should develop and promulgate guidance and training for state, local, tribal, and territorial emergency managers on tools, methodologies and best practices for conducting detailed, data-driven risk assessments.

Recommendation 2016-17: The Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration and the Protection and National Preparedness program offices should collaborate to determine how the HIRA will feed into the THIRA.

Recommendation 2016-18: FEMA should change the reporting requirement for THIRA from every year to every other year.

II. The National Flood Insurance Program (2 recommendations)

Issue #2: The NFIP needs to better integrate mitigation and affordability to reduce long-term Federal exposure.

Recommendation 2016-19: The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) should explore a new pilot program, consisting of means-tested vouchers, mitigation loans, and multi-year policies, to promote affordability, mitigation, and reduced federal exposure. This is based on the Addressing Affordability in the National Flood Insurance Program by Carolyn Kousky and Howard Kunreuther published May 23, 2014.

Recommendation 2016-20: FEMA should work through the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) to develop cross-department programs to provide funding and support of hazard mitigation for flood prone housing.

III. Active Shooters (3 recommendations)

Issue #3: The incidence of active shooter situations continues to increase. There seems to be a lack of clarity about available training curriculum and the intended audience of various curricula. First responders and law enforcement training on active shooter is available, but there is gap in training for citizens and other response disciplines (e.g. hospitals, schools) on initial response actions and recovery from active shooter incidents.

Recommendation 2016-21: FEMA in its Whole Community role, should prioritize and continue to support federal counterparts in the development and promotion of community-based training for active shooter incidents.

Recommendation 2016-22: FEMA should leverage America's PrepareAthon! to initiate and promote training and community awareness for active shooter incidents. Community response to active shooter should be made a focus hazard in a future April/September America's PrepareAthon!.

Recommendation 2016-23: Using data available from the U.S. Secret Service, FEMA should champion and help streamline the implementation of best practices of active shooter incidents through preparedness grant programs.

IV. Family Reunification (3 recommendations)

Issue #4: There are numerous disparate reunification systems. There is an overall lack of understanding about the reunification systems currently available. Lack of awareness about these valuable tools and resources could hamper reunification efforts in the future. In particular, there is a lack of awareness regarding systems that safely support the reunification of children and other vulnerable populations.

Recommendation 2016-24: FEMA should conduct a study to identify all reunification systems, including those overseen by governmental (federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal), private sector, and non-profit entities; maintain information on all identified systems in a single location, accessible to the public, and capable of showing which systems are active during an event; and solicit feedback from the NAC on the study's results before they are published.

Issue #5: The presence of multiple reunification systems, which do not "talk" to one another, unnecessarily encumbers the reunification process. An individual could check-in safe on one system but fail to reach their loved ones monitoring a separate system. Increasing effective communication between these systems or considering moving to a single system, may alleviate this potential problem. Additionally, reunification systems that support the reunification of unaccompanied, separated, and lost children have special legal requirements to help ensure the safety and protection of the children they serve. FEMA's effort to help provide clear guidance and transparency on reunification systems and planning, must include specific and clear provisions regarding the reunification of children.

Recommendation 2016-25: FEMA should facilitate a working group of end users and entities who oversee reunification systems with the goal of working towards a single or integrated system. The workgroup should identify a way for the current (and future) disparate systems to operate more effectively together. As part of the process, FEMA may want to consider working with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) towards the development of universal technology standards and protocols for reunification systems. FEMA should also solicit feedback from the NAC on the working group's results before they are implemented.

Recommendation 2016-26: In an effort to expedite the reunification process, expedite the identification of missing persons, and ensure the safety of all mass care and health care facility residents, FEMA should

research, identify, and recommend promising practices to increase the flow of communication among facilities and emergency management personnel involved in mass care and reunification during and after a disaster.

V. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Tool Compliance and Disability Inclusion in Emergency Planning, Response, and Recovery (3 recommendations)

Issue #6: Jurisdictions have a clear understanding that there are legal requirements for integrating and accommodating the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs into emergency management operations. However, there is limited operational guidance, for what is considered adequate, achievable, and reasonable by federal partners. Many jurisdictions have taken action on planning integration efforts but have concern that their actions will not be sufficient. Although a number of current guidance documents encourage local jurisdictions to incorporate ADA considerations into their emergency management activities, none addresses how this incorporation can or should occur. This creates hesitancy and confusion among local officials who may be interested in incorporating these considerations but are unsure of how to proceed. Specifically, there are limited clear, quantifiable definitions and strategic or tactical level guidance that exacerbates implementation challenges.

Recommendation 2016-27: FEMA should develop one or more implementation guidance documents that provide strategies for integrating and accommodating the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs. Implementation guidance should:

- Include key stakeholders;
- Incorporate strategies on how to develop emergency operational programs, plans, and procedures that are inclusionary, integrated, and provide for accommodations, as required by law;
- Include clear definitions and tactical guidance; and
- Scalable to allow jurisdictions the flexibility to apply their own tactics to execution.

Issue#7: Training opportunities on ADA implementation strategies are scarce. Incorporation of ADA is an issue that permeates many facets of emergency management; thus, it may be more prudent to incorporate guidance on these considerations into pre-existing training courses.

Recommendation 2016-28: FEMA should update current training and develop additional training that incorporates disability, access, and functional needs considerations into emergency management planning and practices. This recommendation is interdependent with recommendation 2016-27. The training should focus primarily on “how” in addition to “what or why.” Subject matter experts should be used for the development and delivery of current and future training. These trainings should address strategies for implementing integration and inclusion in all areas of emergency management programs.

Issue #8: Providing Current Situational Awareness on Available Federal Resources

Recommendation 2016-29: FEMA should develop a matrix that identifies federal resources related to people with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs, available for states to request during a disaster. The matrix should:

- Identify the responsible federal agency for each resource;
- Provide the details of the available resource;
- Offer a timeline to deploy upon request;
- Estimate cost share;
- Provide any other pertinent information that would allow states to make informed decisions on requesting support; and
- Be easily accessible and updated in real time to ensure accuracy.