TECH SECTOR COLLABORATION

Overview

Technologies that enable communications, decision-making, and situational awareness are now essential to effective emergency management.

The Tech Sector Collaboration (Program), formerly known as Tech Corps, resolves critical challenges experienced during federally declared disasters through innovative applications of technology in support of state, local, tribal and territorial governments and survivors.

The goal is to identify and resolve critical challenges in disaster-impacted communities through innovative applications of technology. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Tech Sector Collaboration Program coordinates the voluntary expertise and resources provided by private sector and nongovernmental organizations to support state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) governments during federally declared disasters.

FEMA's Private Sector Division manages the Program with FEMA's Chief Technology Officer providing strategic counsel and three Technology and Innovation Advisors focus on implementation and operations during disasters in coordination with the National Business Emergency Operations Center (NBEOC).

The concept reflects the collaborative, whole community approach the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA embraces. In June 2015, technology organizations − Cisco Systems, Google, Humanity Road, Information Technology Disaster Resource Center, Intel, Joint Communications Task Force, and Microsoft − signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with FEMA to develop a nationwide network of technology organizations with volunteers whose expertise and capabilities support disaster response and recovery.

FEMA is currently developing a functional framework, identifying opportunities to integrate organizational volunteer capabilities, and constructing an engagement plan for the Program, as they relate to both public and private sectors.

Tech Sector Collaboration Program's Role in Response and Recovery for Presidentially Declared Disasters

The Program matches a national network of trained technology volunteers from capable member technology organizations to critical challenges experienced during disaster response and recovery efforts. Some of the skills include implementing

network connectivity for impacted communities; providing geospatial information systems, emergency communications, computer programming and other technological capabilities to meet emerging needs.

The national Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) employ Technology and Innovation Advisors who identify technology gaps and coordinate with members in the field and connect volunteer technology resources with SLTT partners. The advisors work with SLTT partners, FEMA headquarters, state and regional private sector liaisons, and community members to resolve the challenges during disaster response.

Tech Sector Collaboration Program Benefits

For SLTT emergency responders at all levels
- The Program leverages nationally recognized technology volunteer teams to meet responder and community technology needs by establishing emergency networks and communications to maintain functional connectivity during disaster response and recovery.
- The Program increases the response capabilities to an incident, without increasing the cost to the SLTT partners.

For Program members
- The Program simplifies voluntary disaster support by providing a single point of coordination for technology volunteers to aid in disasters.
- Technology partners will learn to operate in a disasters by participating in FEMA training and exercise programs with SLTT partners to support the Program.

For FEMA
- The Program partners provide another resource that can help speed the response and recovery of communities in disasters.
- The Program promotes disaster survivor needs and supports community resilience through public-private partnerships with technology companies and non-profit technology organizations.

Expanding the Partnership

For more information about Tech Sector Collaboration Program, visit www.fema.gov/tech-sector or send an e-mail to FEMATech-Sector@fema.dhs.gov.

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"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build,   sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."