



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION

The National Disaster Recovery Framework introduces six Recovery Support Functions (RSF) that are led by designated federal coordinating agencies at the national level. RSFs involve partners in the local, state and tribal governments and private and nonprofit sectors not typically involved in emergency support functions but critically needed in disaster recovery. These new partners may include public and private organizations that have experience with permanent housing financing, economic development, advocacy for underserved populations and long-term community planning.

The processes used for facilitating recovery are more flexible, context based and collaborative in approach than the task-oriented approach used during the response phase of an incident. Recovery processes should be scalable and based on demonstrated recovery needs.

Each RSF has a designated coordinating agency along with primary agencies and supporting organizations with programs relevant to the functional area. The RSF Coordinating Agency, with the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, provides leadership, coordination and oversight for that particular.

When coordinating agencies are activated to lead a RSF, primary agencies and supporting organizations are expected to be responsive to the function related communication and coordination needs.

Health and Social Services

Healthcare is an economic driver in many communities, which if damaged make this sector critical to most communities' disaster recovery. Social Services have a major impact on the ability of a community to recover. The support of social services programs for at-risk and vulnerable children, individuals, and families affected by a disaster can promote a more effective and rapid recovery. The Health and Social Services RSF outlines the Federal framework to support locally led recovery efforts to address public health, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential social services needs. Displaced individuals in need of housing will also need health and social services support.

Coordinating Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Primary Agencies: Corporation for National and Community Service; Department of Agriculture; Department of Commerce; Department of Homeland Security/National Protection and Programs Directorate; Department of Homeland Security/Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; Department of Housing and Urban Development; Department of the Interior; Department of Justice; Department of Labor; Environmental Protection Agency; Federal Emergency Management Agency

Supporting Organizations: American Red Cross; Department of Education; Department of Transportation; Department of the Treasury; Department of Veterans Affairs; National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster; Small Business Administration

Objectives:

- Complete assessment of community health and social service needs, prioritize those needs, including accessibility requirements, based on the whole community's participation in the recovery planning process, and develop a comprehensive recovery timeline.
- Restore health care public health, and social services functions.
- Restore and improve the resilience and sustainability of the health care system and social service capabilities and networks to promote the independence and well-being of community members in accordance with the specified recovery timeline.