

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.

July 19, 2010



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Benilda Caixeta

July 31, 1954 – August 29, 2005

Unable to evacuate before or during hurricane Katrina, Benilda told me the water was rushing into her home just before her phone went dead. Her body and her wheelchair were found floating inside her home three days later.



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Disability Facts

- 56.4 million Americans (20% of the population)
- 11 million people over age 6 need personal assistance with everyday activities
- Globally, there are 650 million people with disabilities



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Among individuals with disabilities 15 years old and over:

- 1.8 million are unable to see printed words
- 1 million are unable to hear conversations
- 2.5 million have difficulty having their speech understood (431,000 are unable to have their speech understood)
- 16.1 million have a cognitive, intellectual or mental health disability (over 7% of the population)
- 3.3 million people over the age of 14 use a wheelchair and another 10 million have used a cane, crutches, or a walker to get around for 6 months or longer.



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Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination in Emergency Programs on the Basis of Disability

- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Stafford Act
- Rehabilitation Act
- Fair Housing Act
- Architectural Barriers Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Telecommunications Act

Each provides affirmative obligations and prohibitions of discrimination on the basis of disability.

No State or local government, or its contractors, in providing services may, by law, policy, or contract, provide services below those standards without violating federal law.



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Department of Justice Guidance to State and Local Governments

The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws apply in:

- Preparation
- Notification
- Evacuation and transportation
- Sheltering
- First aid and medical services
- Temporary lodging and housing
- Transition back to the community
- Clean up
- Other emergency- and disaster-related programs, services, and activities



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“Disasters are always inclusive. Response and recovery are not, unless we plan for it.”

June Isaacson Kailes



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Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Mission Statement

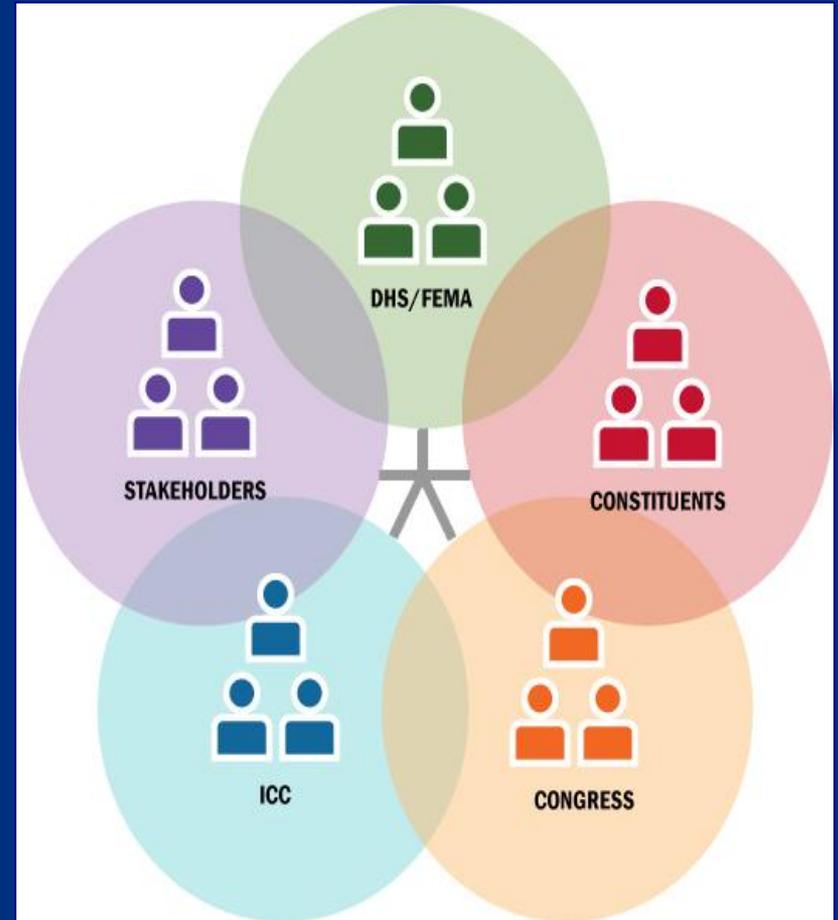
Preparing individuals and families and strengthening communities before, during and after a disaster by providing guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management efforts to meet the needs of all citizens, including children and adults with disabilities and others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



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Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

- Advisor to the FEMA Administrator, Office of External Affairs and across the directorates
 - Programs
 - Guidance
 - Regulations
 - Legislation
- Liaison with DHS and Federal partners
- Communication with constituents and stakeholders
- Implementation of PKEMRA



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The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Our motto:

“Baking it in, not layering it on”



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“It's no longer special - it's part of what we do”

Richard Devylder
Special Advisor to the Secretary
California Emergency Management Agency



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

Winston Churchill



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Sent to me by colleagues:

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.



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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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Access and Functional Needs

Children and adults with access and functional needs may have physical, sensory, mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Others who may also have access and functional needs include, but are not limited to, women in late stages of pregnancy, elders and individuals needing bariatric equipment or communication assistance.



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Accomplishments

- Established the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
- Established database and ongoing communication with over 600 disability and emergency management stakeholder and constituent groups
- Shelter Supply List for Durable Medical Equipment and Consumable Medical Supplies
- Established criteria for “universal” cots
- Coordination with Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group and National Disaster Recovery Framework
- Coordination with National Disaster Housing Task Force
- Incorporation of children and adults with disabilities into planning guidance and documents
- Presentations and workshops in over 50 locations



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Current Initiatives

- Establishment of the Disability Working Group
- Disability Coordinators in every Region
- Memorandum of Agreement with the National Council on Independent Living
- Functional Needs Support Services Training for States & Regions
- ODIC National Capacity Building Training Conference
 - cosponsored by: NPD, ICC, NCD, DOJ
- Maintaining key Federal partnerships: ICC, NCD, HHS, DOJ, DOE, DOT, HUD, US Access Board
- ODIC webpage
- Integration of children and adults with disabilities into FEMA's planning guidance and documents
- Diversity Council membership
- Inclusive language guidance
- Executive Brown Bag - Disability Integration and Coordination



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Functional Needs vs. Acute Health Care Needs



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Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS)

Sheltering Scope & Definition

Services that enable children and adults with disabilities to maintain their health, safety and independence in a general population shelter.

FNSS includes:

- reasonable modification 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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FNSSS Guidance

includes information about:

- Planning
- Finding subject matter experts
- Selecting potential shelter sites
- Accessible toilets and bathing facilities
- Personal assistance service needs
- Medical Care
- Durable Medical Equipment and Consumable Medical Supplies
- Legal obligations
- Service and assistance animal



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FNSS Guidance Working Group

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	Jo Ann Oram – R 10	RI DOH	Kate McCarthy- Barnett
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	Daniel Davis - OD		Kari Tatro
DOJ	Jeanine Worden		
	William Lynch		
DHS	Debbie Fulmer – CRCL		



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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 accessible, available and achievable for 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.



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