

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.

April 27, 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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“Disasters are always inclusive.
Response and recovery are not,
unless we plan for it.”

-June Isaacson Kailes



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“We don’t plan for easy in FEMA ... we plan for the communities we serve.”

Administrator Fugate
March 2010



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Mission

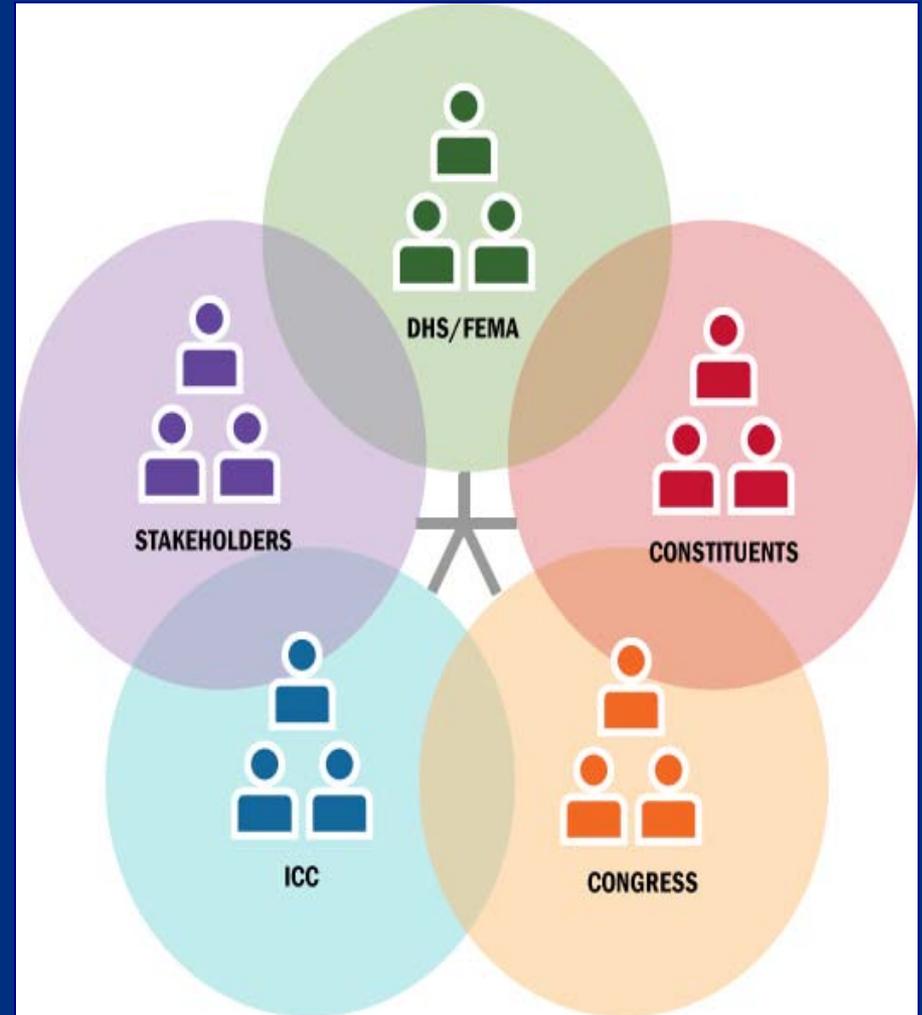
Preparing individuals and families and strengthening communities before, during and after a disaster by providing guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management efforts to meet the needs of all citizens, including children and adults with disabilities and others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



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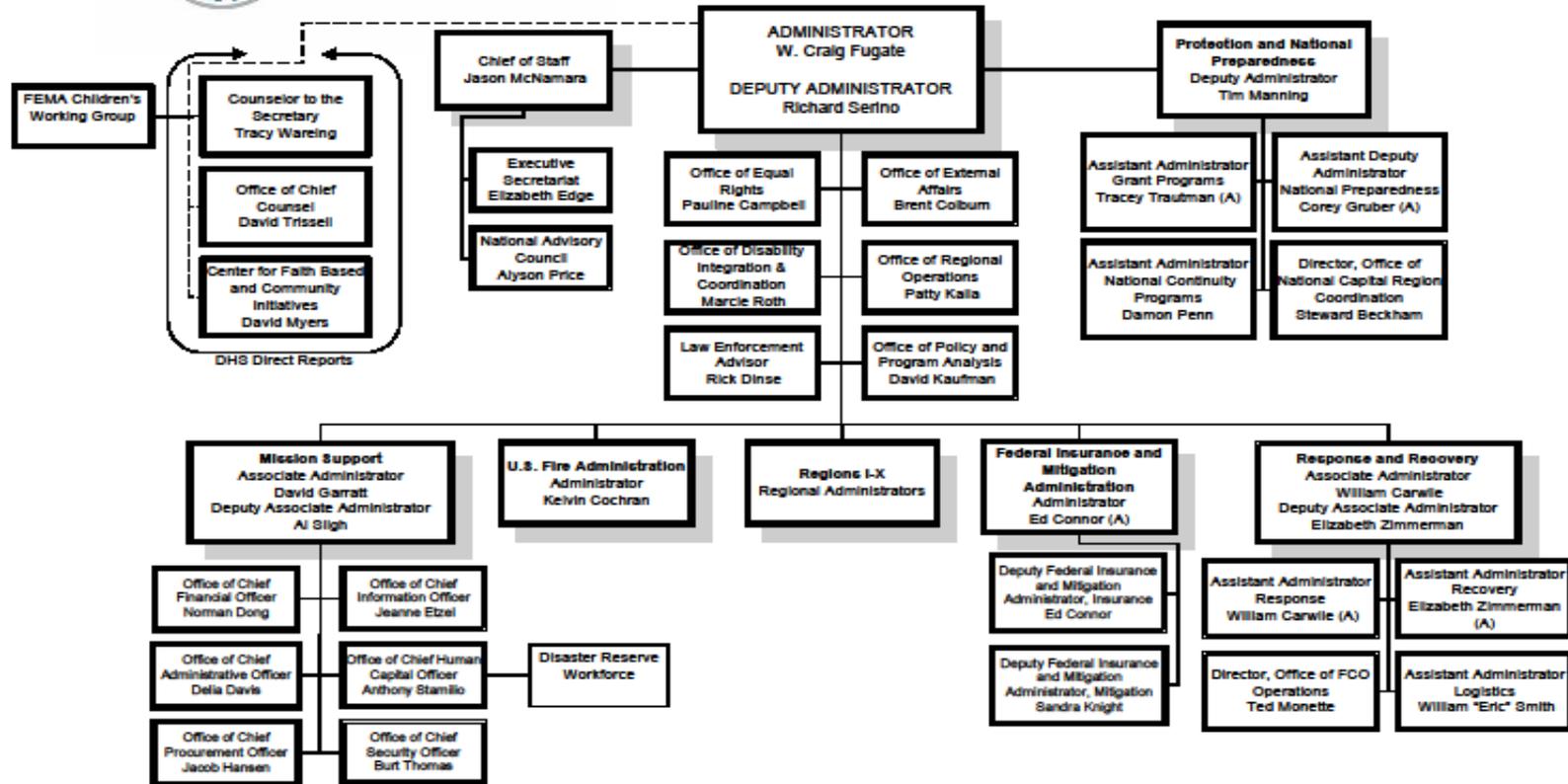
- Senior Advisor to the FEMA Administrator, Office of External Affairs and across the directorates
 - Programs
 - Guidance
 - Regulations
 - Legislation
- Liaison with DHS and Federal partners
- Communication with constituents and stakeholders



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Effective 2/17/2010

(A) denotes acting incumbent



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Current Initiatives

- Interagency Coordinating Council
- Community Preparedness Initiative
- Children's Working Group
- Functional Needs Support Services Guidance
- Personal Assistance Services Guidance
- Multi-Agency Shelter Assessment Working Group
- Durable Medical Equipment & Consumable Medical Supplies Working Group
- Subject Matter Expert Cadre Development
- National Disaster Housing Task Force
- National Long Term Disaster Recovery Task Force
- Constituent and Stakeholder Outreach
- National Level Exercises
- Training
- Publications



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The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Our motto:

“Baking it in, not layering it on”



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Print Preview

References
[Preparedness Resources](#)

The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC)

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.



- Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator - Marcie Roth, Director FEMA ODIC

Belief

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





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Preparedness Resources

- [Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness](#) - The Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities was established to ensure that the federal government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in disaster Situations.
- [DisabilityPreparedness.gov](#) - This Federal government disability preparedness Web site sponsored by the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities provides practical information on how people with and without disabilities can prepare for an emergency. It also provides information for family members, service providers, emergency planners, and first responders.
- [Disability.Gov - Emergency Preparedness Resources](#) - This Federal government Web site contains information that people with disabilities, their families, employers, and first-responders need to know about actions that should be taken before, during, and after emergencies. Comprehensive information on emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans that take into account the needs of people with disabilities, as well as practical tips on how individuals, schools, and places of business can prepare for emergencies
- [DisastersRUs](#) - This Web site links visitors to essential information for people with disabilities, their family members, care providers, and emergency managers, planners, and responders. The Web site also lists NOD's Principles of disAbility Preparedness and Disaster Mitigation Tips for Persons with Disabilities. The main focus of this Web site is on disasters which affect Florida and the Southeast U.S.
- [Executive Order No. 13347](#) - This Executive Order, issued by President George W. Bush on July 22, 2004, ensures that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism.
- [Preparing the Workplace for Everyone](#) - This publication, first published in 2005 by the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities, provides a framework of emergency preparedness guidelines for federal agencies.
- [Federal Relay Service](#) - The Federal Relay Service (FedRelay) is a federal government telecommunications service provided by the General Services Administration (GSA), which enables federal employees who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf/blind, or have



FEMA National Advisory Council Access and Functional Needs Representative



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Disability Facts

- 56.4 million Americans with disabilities
- Approximately 20% of the US population
- 650 million children and adults with disabilities globally



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Definition of Disability

The term “individual with a disability” refers to “a [child or adult] who:

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities,
- Has a history or record of such an impairment, or
- Is perceived by others as having such an impairment.”

Children and adults may have physical, sensory, mental health, cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities resulting in access and functional needs that, if unmet, limit their ability to maintain or regain their level of independence.



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“My experience tells me if we wait and plan for people with disabilities after we write the basic plan, we fail.”

- Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator



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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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Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination 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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Stafford Act

Section 403. Essential Assistance (42 U.S.C. 5170b)

(a) Federal agencies may on the direction of the President, provide assistance essential to meeting immediate threats to life and property resulting from a major disaster such for-

(2) Medicine, durable medical equipment, food, and other consumables

- Distributing or rendering through State and local governments, the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief and disaster assistance organizations medicine, durable medical equipment, food, and other consumable supplies, and other services and assistance to disaster survivors.



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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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Key Principles

- **Equal Access** – People with disabilities must be able to access the same programs and services as the general population. Access may include modifications to programs, policies, procedures, architecture, equipment, services, supplies, and communication methods.
- **Physical Access** – People with disabilities must be able to access locations where emergency programs and services are provided.
- **Access to Effective Communication** – People with disabilities must be given the same information provided to the general population using methods that are understandable and timely.



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Key Principles cont'd

- **Inclusion** – People with disabilities have the right to participate in and receive the benefits of emergency programs, services, and activities provided by governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations.
- **Integration** - Emergency programs, services, and activities typically must be provided in an integrated setting.
- **Program Modifications** - People with disabilities must have equal access to emergency programs and services, which may entail modifications to rules, policies, practices, and procedures.
- **No Charge** - People with disabilities may not be charged to cover the costs of measures necessary to ensure equal access and nondiscriminatory treatment.



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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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Functional Needs V. Acute Health Care Needs



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Meeting Access and Functional Needs in General Population Shelters:

Access and functional needs may include modifications to programs, policies, procedures, architecture, equipment, services, supplies, and communication methods. Examples of "access and functional needs" services may include a reasonable modification of a policy, practice, or procedure or the provision of auxiliary aids and services to achieve effective communication, such as, among many others:

- (1) the provision of durable medical equipment and consumable medical supplies to enable an individual to regain or maintain their level of independence;
- (2) the provision of transferring and toileting assistance to an individual with a mobility disability; and
- (3) an exception for service animals in an emergency shelter where there is a no-pets policy;
- (4) the provision of an interpreter to someone who is deaf and seeks to fill out paperwork for public benefits.



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FNSS Guidance will include 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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Crutches in Haiti



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Integration in Action



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INTEGRATION AND CORDINATION

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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FEMIA

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

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Purpose

- The purpose of this document is to provide planning guidance to emergency managers and shelter planners in meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters.

Scope

- This guidance has been developed to support local, tribal, State and Federal governments to integrate children and adults with and without disabilities who have access and functional needs into every aspect of emergency shelter planning and response.

Definition

- Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) are defined as services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in a general population shelter.

Premise

- Historically, resource gaps have existed in planning for and meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters.



Key Considerations

- The importance of **advanced planning** in developing and implementing Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in general population shelters cannot be overstated.
- In developing plans that will meet the needs of people requiring FNSS, emergency managers and shelter planners should **collaborate** with all relevant stakeholders



FNSS Planning

- Communication assistance and services when completing the shelter registration process and other forms or processes involved in applying for emergency-related benefits and services;
- DME, CMS and/or PAS that assist with activities of daily living;

FNSS Planning

- Access to medications to maintain health, mental health and function;
- Available sleeping accommodations (e.g., the provision of universal/accessible cots or beds and cribs; the placement, modification, or stabilization of cots or beds and cribs; the provision and installation of privacy curtains);



FNSS Planning

- Access to orientation and way-finding for people who are blind or have low vision;
- Assistance for individuals with cognitive and intellectual disabilities
- Auxiliary aids and services necessary to ensure effective communication for persons with communication disabilities;



FNSS Planning

- Access to an air-conditioned and/or heated environment (e.g. for those who cannot regulate body temperature) ;
- Refrigeration for medications;
- Availability of food and beverages appropriate for individuals with dietary restrictions (e.g., persons with diabetes or severe allergies to foods such as peanuts, dairy products and gluten);

FNSS Planning

- Providing food and supplies for assistance animals (e.g., dishes for food and water, arrangements for the hygienic disposal of waste; and, if requested, portable kennels for containment);
- Access to transportation for individuals who may require a wheelchair-accessible vehicle, individualized assistance and the transportation of equipment required in a shelter because of a disability;



FNSS Planning

- Assistance locating, securing and moving to post-disaster alternative housing, which includes housing that is accommodating to the individual's functional support needs (e.g., accessible housing, housing with adequate space to accommodate DME, or housing located in close proximity to public transportation, medical providers, job or educational facility, and/or retail stores);



FNSS Planning

Assistance with activities of daily living such as:

- eating
- taking medication
- dressing and undressing
- transferring to and from a wheelchair or other mobility aid
- walking
- stabilization
- bathing
- toileting
- communicating



FNSS Guidance “*Rollout*”

- To be scheduled and presented in all 10 FEMA Regions to key stakeholders.
- Guidance will have critical information for stakeholders to utilize in planning and preparedness.
- BCFS Health and Human Services – Emergency Services Division will be available for training and consultation.

Questions...

