



# FEMA

## National Disaster Recovery Framework

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION

The National Disaster Recovery Framework introduces six new Recovery Support Functions that are led by designated federal coordinating agencies at the national level. Recovery Support Functions 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 Recovery Support Function has a designated coordinating agency along with primary agencies and supporting organizations with programs relevant to the functional area. The Recovery Support Function 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 Recovery Support Function, primary agencies and supporting organizations are expected to be responsive to the function related communication and coordination needs.

#### HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

**Coordinating Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services

**Primary Agencies:** Corporation for National and Community Service, Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency/National Preparedness and Protection Directive and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties), Department of Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Education Department and Veterans Affairs

**Supporting Organizations:** Department of Transportation, Small Business Administration, Department of Treasury, Department of Agriculture, Veterans Affairs, American Red Cross, National Organizations Active in Disasters

#### Mission

The Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function mission is for the Federal Government to assist locally-led recovery efforts in the restoration of the public health, health care and social services networks to promote the resilience, health and well-being of affected individuals and communities.

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**Function**

The core recovery capability for health and social services is the ability to restore and improve health and social services networks to promote the resilience, health, independence and well being of the whole community. 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. For the purposes of this RSF, the use of the term health will refer to and include public health, behavioral health and medical services. This Annex establishes (1) a Federal focal point for coordinating Federal recovery efforts specifically for health and social services needs; and, (2) a Federal operational framework outlining how Federal agencies plan to support local health and social services recovery efforts. This framework is flexible and can adjust during a disaster to complement local efforts, as needed.

**PRE-DISASTER: THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION**

- Incorporates planning for the transition from response to recovery into preparedness and operational plans, in close collaboration with ESFs #3, #6, #8 and #11.
- Incorporates planning for the transition from post-incident recovery operations back to a steady-state into preparedness and operational plans.
- Develops strategies to address recovery issues for health, behavioral health and social services – particularly the needs of response and recovery workers, children, seniors, people living with disabilities, people with functional needs, people from diverse cultural origins, people with limited English proficiency and underserved populations.
- Promotes the principles of sustainability, resilience and mitigation into preparedness and operational plans.

**POST-DISASTER: THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION**

- Maintains situational awareness to identify and mitigate potential recovery obstacles during the response phase.
- Leverages response, emergency protection measures and hazard mitigation resources during the response phase to expedite recovery.
- Provides technical assistance in the form of impact analyses and supports recovery planning of public health, health care and human services infrastructure.
- Conducts Federal Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function

assessments with primary agencies.

- Identifies and coordinates Federal Health and Social Services specific missions with primary agencies
- When activated by the Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator, the primary and supporting departments and agencies deploy in support of the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function mission, as appropriate.
- Establishes communication and information-sharing forum(s) for Health and Social Services RSF stakeholders with the State and/or community.
- Coordinates and leverages applicable Federal resources for health and social services.
- Develops and implements a plan to transition from Federal Health and Social Services recovery operations back to a steady-state.
- Identifies and coordinates with other local, State, Tribal and Federal partners to assess food, animal, water and air conditions to ensure safety.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of Federal Health and Social Services recovery efforts.
- Provides technical assistance in the form of impact analyses and recovery planning support of public health, health care, and human services infrastructure.
- Identifies and coordinates with other local, State, Tribal and Federal partners the assessment of food, animal, water and air conditions to ensure their safety.

**OUTCOMES FOR THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY SUPPORT  
FUNCTION**

- Restore the capacity and resilience of essential health and social services to meet ongoing and emerging post-disaster community needs.
- Encourage behavioral health systems to meet the behavioral health needs of affected individuals, response and recovery workers, and the community.
- Promote self-sufficiency and continuity of the health and well-being of affected individuals; particularly the needs of children, seniors, people living with disabilities whose members may have additional functional needs, people from diverse origins, people with limited English proficiency, and underserved populations.
- Assist in the continuity of essential health and social services, including schools.
- Reconnect displaced populations with essential health and social services.
- Protect the health of the population and response and recovery workers from the longer-term effects of a post-disaster environment.
- Promote clear communications and public health messaging to provide accurate, appropriate and accessible information; ensure information is developed and disseminated in multiple mediums, multi-lingual formats, alternative formats, is age-appropriate and user-friendly and is accessible to underserved populations.

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