

# National Disaster Recovery Framework

---

FEMA updated the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) to streamline and clarify the federal government’s approach for providing disaster recovery resources and support to disaster-impacted communities. The NDRF explains the federal government’s roles and responsibilities for organizing and deploying disaster recovery assistance. It also enhances effective collaboration among federal agencies and state, local, territorial governments and Tribal Nations, while informing nongovernmental partners.

## What is the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) and its relationship to the National Preparedness Goal?

The NDRF describes how the nation mobilizes for disaster recovery. It is intended to serve as a high-level document with additional operational plans to be developed in the future.

The NDRF is [one of five national frameworks](#). In 2011, President Obama signed Presidential Policy Directive 8, which required the creation of a National Preparedness Goal as well as the National Preparedness System, which outlines the processes necessary to achieve that goal.

The currently published National Preparedness Goal is: “A secure and resilient Nation with the capabilities required across the whole community to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.”

This goal identifies five mission areas under which all the various preparedness activities are organized. They are: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. The goal also outlines the core capabilities necessary for the execution of these mission areas. Each mission area has its own framework.

## Why is the NDRF important for disaster recovery?

The NDRF outlines the federal government’s approach for providing disaster recovery resources and support and describes high-level disaster recovery roles and responsibilities.

State, local, Tribal Nations, and territorial governments (SLTTs) may use the federal structure described in the NDRF as a model to guide and inform their own disaster recovery planning and policymaking.



**FEMA**

The guiding principle of the NDRF is that disaster recovery is most successful when it is organized around community-driven and locally defined goals that promote inclusive and resilient outcomes.

The NDRF is primarily written for SLTT officials, who lead and hold the responsibility of guiding their community's recovery. By understanding the federal recovery structure, SLTT officials can more effectively lead and coordinate disaster recovery efforts.

The NDRF is also valuable for recovery practitioners at all levels including full time professionals, like state and county emergency managers, as well as individuals from across the whole recovery community.

## **What is the scope of the NDRF?**

The NDRF explains how the federal government supports disaster-affected SLTTs as they recover and describes federal and nongovernmental recovery resources that may be available to them under federal declarations.

The NDRF can be applied across a broad range of disasters, including: Stafford Act declarations, agency declarations, and Presidentially directed disaster recovery support (such as through an Executive Order or a Presidential Memorandum).

While the NDRF primarily applies to emergency and major disaster declarations, it recognizes that communities are constantly responding to and recovering from disasters that do not receive federal declarations, therefore, the concept presented within the NDRF can also be adapted by communities so they can be better equipped to respond to and recovery in a resilient manner.

## **How did FEMA engage SLTT and nongovernmental partners for input on the updated NDRF?**

At the start of the current 2024 effort, FEMA established an NDRF Steering Committee to guide the revision process. FEMA also held working groups and listening sessions with whole community partners to gather feedback on improving the document.

Between March and June 2024, FEMA conducted 57 partner engagements with a total of 175 participants. Sessions included: 13 Steering Committee meetings; 28 Working Group meetings; 3 Tribal Nations Working Group meetings; 2 Tribal Nations consultations; 1 Quarterly Tribal Association Meeting; 10 Partner Engagement Listening Sessions.

## **What key updates were made to the NDRF?**

The 2024 NDRF better lays out the roles and responsibilities of the federal government in disaster recovery. It uses examples from real-world recovery efforts throughout the document to highlight ways that coordination can support achieving local recovery goals.

The updated framework explains the roles and responsibilities of the six federal Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) including name changes for the Community Assistance (formerly Community Planning and Capacity Building) and Health, Education, and Human Services (formerly Health and Human Services) RSFs. It includes new appendices featuring fact sheets for each RSF that detail activities they may support before and after a disaster.

New graphics illustrate the recovery lifecycle from when disaster strikes through stabilization of threats to life and property, the flow of response efforts into recovery and rebuilding, and the importance of coordination in support of achieving community-driven recovery goals.

## **What are the Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), and how do they help communities before, during, and after disasters?**

RSFs are the way federal agencies organize recovery resources in support of local recovery goals. As part of an Interagency Recovery Coordination mission, RSFs can provide resources, expertise, and technical assistance that help communities rebuild.

Chapter 3: Federal Roles and Responsibilities introduces each of the six RSFs, detailed description of their missions, strategic outcomes, and responsibilities. The six RSFs are: Community Assistance; Economic; Health, Education, and Human Services; Housing; Infrastructure; and Natural and Cultural Resources.

Appendix A: Recovery Support Functions and Participating Agencies and Organizations provides fact sheets for each RSF, including what they can offer communities before and after a disaster.

## **Who oversees implementation of the NDRF?**

Interagency Recovery Coordination (IRC) is driven and led by FEMA to mobilize federal agencies and non-federal partners to collectively identify community recovery needs, set priorities, and implement solutions to achieve recovery outcomes.

Chapter 3: Federal Roles and Responsibilities explains how the federal government implements the federal disaster recovery structure outlined in the NDRF. It provides an overview of the federal government's disaster recovery roles and responsibilities, including key field positions filled during recovery operations like the Federal Coordinating Officer, Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Interagency Recovery Coordination Missions, and Advisors.

## **How does the NDRF improve coordination among federal, SLTT, and nongovernmental partners?**

Chapter 4: State, Local, Tribal Nation, and Territorial Roles and Responsibilities explains the critical roles governments play in disaster recovery for their communities, including that they rely on their own capacities and authorities to lead recovery for most disasters. It provides examples of successful federal and SLTT coordination and important considerations for working toward local recovery goals.

## **What non-governmental resources are available to help my community rebuild after a disaster?**

Chapter 5: Nongovernmental Resources explains where communities can look for additional recovery support. It explains the vital recovery roles played by Long-Term Recovery Groups, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, academia, and business and industry. It encourages SLTTs to establish relationships with these partners early and incorporate them into pre- and post-disaster recovery planning.

Appendix E: Digital Resource Links provides websites that point state and local officials toward programs, training, and other resources that can help rebuilding after disasters.