

Accessible & Inclusive Emergency Planning Guide

City of Madison

Equity & Social Justice Division and Emergency
Management Division

What Is This Guide?

- A document created through partnership of the Department of Civil Rights and Madison Fire Department
- Provides guidance for people responding to emergency situations

Intent

- To support accessible and inclusive emergency planning through:
 1. Communication
 2. Identification of Facilities, Shelter Locations, Needs, Etc.
 3. Coordination of Personnel, Equipment & Supplies
- To ensure that no one is left behind in an emergency
- Incorporate the lived experiences and priorities of community members most vulnerable during an emergency

What are “Access and Functional Needs”?

- “The broad range of access limitations and individualized supports and services that some individuals may need to ensure equity in emergency and disaster planning and response.” [\(Link\)](#)

Who has “Access and Functional Needs”?

- People who are most at risk during an emergency



Children



People who live in
institutional settings



Older Adults



Pregnant Women



People with
Disabilities



People with
Chronic Conditions



People with
Pharmacological
Dependency



People with
Limited Access to
Transportation



Limited English
Proficiency and
Non-English Speakers



People of Low
Socioeconomic
Status



Individuals
Experiencing
Homelessness

Why Does This Guide Matter?

- Disasters and emergencies disproportionately impact those with Access and Functional Needs
- Emergencies and disasters require rapid decisions and prioritization of limited resources, so it is vital to include those most impacted during preparedness and planning activities

CMIST Framework

- Framework that is used through all phases of a disaster

Communication

Independence

Transportation



**Maintaining
Health**

**Support &
Safety**

Historical Context

- People with disabilities have a long history of being forced into institutional settings
- *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999) found it is unlawful to keep people with disabilities in segregated settings when they can receive services and live in community-based settings
 - This extends to emergencies

Preparedness

- Encourages a collaborative approach to disaster preparation
 - Working with:
 - Disability-led organizations
 - Disabled residents
 - Local organizations
 - City agencies
- Supporting proactive preparation & development of partnership agreements

Response

- Ensuring shelters and emergency service providers have access to appropriate equipment and support needed to maintain health

Communications

- Ensuring that all emergency communications are accessible to people with language access needs
 - People with language access needs
 - People who prefer languages other than English
 - People with a disability who use services and/or supports to communicate
- In emergencies, the City of Madison will take proactive steps to ensure that information is accessible in Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, and to d/Deaf community members and people with disabilities
- City agencies will immediately contact the Language Access Program for support

Maintaining Health

- People with disabilities are twice as likely to be displaced and two to four times more likely to die or be injured in a disaster
- Maintaining health means people can perform daily life activities such as:
 1. Eating
 2. Communicating
 3. Sleeping
 4. Breathing
 5. Toileting
 6. Mobility
 7. Other self-care tasks
 8. Managing health conditions
- Suggests early identification and intentional planning for these needs to avoid institutionalization of disabled people

Independence

- Makes it clear that service animals, mobility, and communication aids should be considered extensions of the body providing freedom and independence
- Introduces 10 principles of independence

10 Principles of Independence

1. Self-Determination
2. No “One-Size-Fits-All”
3. Equal Opportunity
4. Inclusion
5. Integration
6. Physical Access
7. Equal Access
8. Effective Communication
9. Program Modification s
10. No Charge

Support & Safety

- Provides guidelines for first responders
- Explains ADA compliance practices for:
 - 911 services
 - First responder modifications
 - Shelters

“It is unlawful for a person to be directed towards a nursing home, hospital, or other medical or psychiatric facility if they can be served by a general community shelter with appropriate services and supports.”

Transportation & Evacuation

- Seek to reduce the number of pedestrians evacuating
 - Pedestrians who evacuate encounter more hazards than people who evacuate by vehicle
 - City should coordinate the availability of a variety of vehicles to support evacuation, including:
 1. Lift-equipped buses
 2. Airport shuttle vans
 3. Paratransit vehicles
 4. Medical transport vehicles
 - Ensure there are plans for areas with a high volume of mobility device users

Recovery

- Sets expectation that shelter planners must support people with access and functional needs to return to their homes or to locate new homes in the most integrated setting possible
- Provides a suggested process to verify that people leaving shelters have transportation & other supports they need

What's happening next?

- A draft of the guide is being presented at the quarterly Emergency Management meeting
- Information will be shared about this guide and other emergency planning practices at the Disability Pride Festival
- Community Conversation – Disability & Deaf Community Emergency Planning
- COAD – Community Organizations Active in Disaster