

## 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.

Missouri Catastrophic Mass Care Workshop  
August 10th–11th, 2010  
Jefferson City, MO

## About FEMA

---

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

## FEMA's Role in a Disaster

---

- Always in support of the State
- Always by request
- Domestic



## Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

---

### Mission Statement

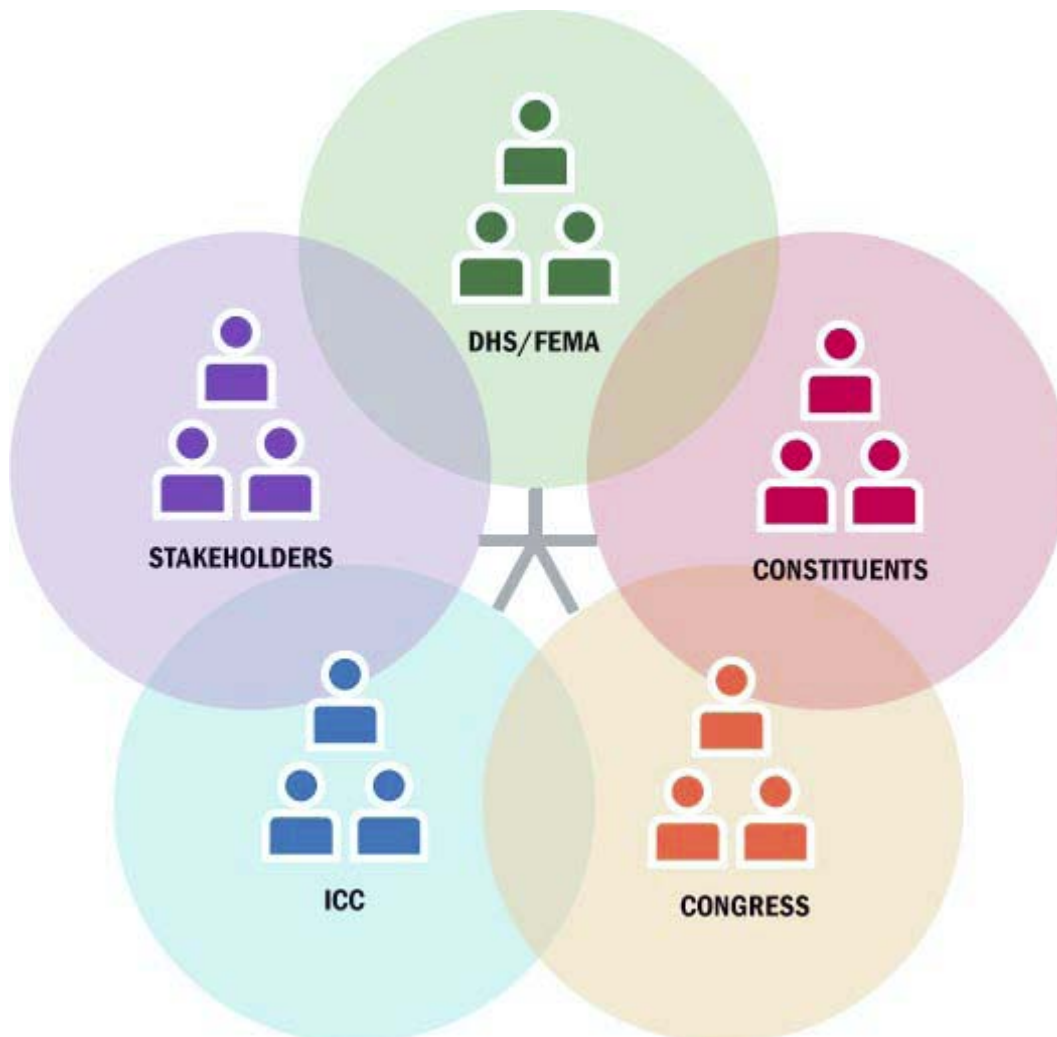
Preparing individuals and families and strengthening communities before, during and after a disaster by providing guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management efforts to meet the needs of all citizens, including children and adults with disabilities and others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



## 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



## FY2010 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

## Current Initiatives

---

- Establishment of the FEMA Disability Working Group
- Disability Integration Specialists 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



# 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.

## 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



## **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.

## **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.

## **The Words We Use**

---

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.

- CT P&A

## **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.”

“It’s no longer special – it’s part of what we do.”

Richard Devylder  
Special Advisor to the Secretary  
California Emergency Management Agency

