

***Emergency Management – Planning, Preparedness, and Response to
Individuals with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs***

I. DISABILITY AWARENESS

- a. Disability Awareness
 - i. Purpose
 - ii. Disability diagnosis vs. functional limitation
 - iii. Numbers
- b. Disability Definitions (specific to emergency management)
 - i. Developmental Disabilities
 - 1. Intellectual disabilities
 - 2. Autism spectrum disorders
 - 3. Epilepsy/seizure disorders
 - 4. Cerebral palsy
 - 5. Neurological impairments
 - a. Spina bifida
 - b. Tourette syndrome
 - ii. Mental Illness
 - iii. Physical Disabilities
 - iv. Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing
 - v. Blind/Low Vision
 - vi. Learning Disabilities
 - vii. ADHD
 - viii. Traumatic Brain Injury
- c. Person First Language
 - i. Communicating with and about people with disabilities
 - ii. Identity-first language
- d. Disability Etiquette and Interaction Skills
 - i. Mobility
 - ii. Speech
 - iii. Blind/Low Vision
 - iv. Deaf/Hard of Hearing
 - v. Mental Illness
 - vi. Intellectual Disabilities
 - vii. General
- e. Ableism (discrimination relative to individuals with disabilities)

II. THE ADA

- a. The Americans with Disabilities Act to include all content related to Emergency Management
- b. Title II addressing the municipality's role and the ADA Coordinator
 - i. Municipality role
 - ii. How to educate elected officials
 - iii. Guidance

- iv. ADA Coordinator
 - 1. Role and responsibility
 - 2. Job description
 - 3. How to utilize them in planning and during an emergency
 - 4. Guidance specific to emergency
- c. Disability Education and Awareness for Municipalities (DEAM)*
- d. General Effective Communication
 - i. ASL interpreters
 - 1. Identification
 - 2. Working agreement
 - 3. How ASL interpretation works
 - 4. Etiquette
 - 5. Positioning
 - ii. Print
 - 1. Font size
 - 2. Braille
 - a. How to access
 - b. Quantity
 - c. Why Braille in today's world?
 - iii. Outreach
- e. Access and Functional Needs defined
- f. Access to ongoing resources
 - i. Websites
 - 1. Content specific to IWDs and Access and Functional Needs
 - 2. checklist
 - ii. Checklists
 - 1. Emergency planning
 - 2. Sheltering
 - 3. Inclusion of IWDs/AFN
 - 4. Readiness planner
- g. Media
 - i. Communication and messaging that is all-inclusive
 - ii. Guidance
- h. Community awareness
 - i. Outreach to IWDs/AFN
- i. Medical personnel
 - i. Specific to IWDs and medical intervention and procedures

III. **INCLUSION AND THE ROLE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

- a. The 25 Commandments for Disability Inclusion and Universal Accessibility Before, During, and After Disasters
- b. Core Advisory Group and the planning process
- c. Whole community planning
- d. Accessibility reviews

- i. Guidance
 - ii. Utilization of qualified assessors
 - 1. Training
- e. Training and education of support networks
 - i. What disability organizations and advocates need to know
 - ii. Utilization within the planning process
- f. Service providers: developmental disabilities, mental health
 - i. Incorporate into Individual service plan
 - ii. Residential analysis
 - iii. FF role
- g. Disability-specific organizations
 - i. MOUs
 - ii. NYC court decision framework
- h. Community resources
- i. Independent Living Centers
 - i. Purpose and support
- j. Exercises
 - i. Incorporating IWDs
 - ii. Intersectionality
- k. Preparedness on the part of the individual with a disability
 - i. To-go kits
 - 1. Medications
 - 2. Adaptive equipment
 - 3. DME
 - ii. Network of supports
- l. Disaster Readiness Planner
- m. US Health and Human Services Empower map (empowermap.phe.gov)
- n. FEMA Region II Disability Integration Resource Database

IV. WORK PLAN (TEMPLATE)

- a. Notification and Evacuation
- b. (General Effective) Communication
 - i. ASL interpreters
 - 1. Where to access
 - ii. Large print/Braille
 - 1. Defined
 - 2. Where to access
 - 3. What to convert
 - iii. Audio
- c. Outreach and Registries
 - i. How to outreach
 - ii. Registry format
- d. Transportation
 - i. Identification of providers

- ii. Plan
- e. Sheltering
 - i. Accessibility
 - ii. Inventory specific to IWDs and access and functional needs
 - iii. Service animals
 - iv. Quiet areas
 - v. Assistive technology
 - vi. Personal Assistance Services
 - vii. Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Centers
- f. Policy and procedures, rules and regulations, MOUs (templates) specific to AFN

- NYSEMA supports this program and is requesting it move forward
- Meeting with NYSEMA outlined the above module format, which best addresses their needs in the development of County Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) relative to IWDs and AFN.
- County Emergency Plan Assessments (CEPA) found many counties failing the AFN portion. Program addresses what needs to be in the CEPA specific to AFN. In discussion with NYS DHSES Senior Policy Advisor, he commented that “this is certainly needed.”
- Module format allows for ALL involved in the planning process to be educated, and receive walk-away information. Some is directly related to the FEMA *Integrating Access and Functional Needs Instructor Development Course* attended by DVW. Additional information is necessary for a complete education on disabilities and proper response.
- Program provides template for emergency plan that currently doesn’t exist but is a request from NYSEMA.
- Program includes IWDs in the planning process, an expectation of FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination. Any development minus NYS Independent Living Council would not be received well. This development needs to start with AFN program curriculum and input from disability advocates.
- NYS OPWDD support of NYS DDPC grant for this program. Other state offices have been introduced.
- Gaps exist in current programs that will be addressed, to some extent, in this program. An example is Citizens Preparedness.
- Lawsuits, to include NYC, provide both guidance and motivation
- Assumptions and expectations of the (disability) community are not always realistic relative to emergency response. While this is not new to anyone in the field, education specific to IWDs in the community on their role is not prevalent. This allows for EM to provide information necessary for IWDs to prepare

- Per state office, information and content that would benefit the program. For instance, regional offices, service providers, specialized training, key personnel with specific responsibilities in emergency response, assist in outreach, resources

RESOURCES:

- shelter accessibility checklist
- disability specific information
- Emergency management checklist
- website accessibility checklist
- Braille makers
- ASL Interpreters
- Regional TRAIID Centers
- DME provider contact info
- OPWDD disaster reps