



OFFICE OF  
PREPAREDNESS  
AND EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT

# Access and Functional Needs Resource Guide

A compilation of resources to assist in public health preparedness planning for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

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## Introduction

The Access and Functional Needs Resource Guide is a compilation of resources, geared toward local public health planners, to assist in public health preparedness planning for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

An individual with a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment.<sup>1</sup> The term “access and functional needs” refers to a set of broad, cross-cutting access and function-based needs. Access-based needs require ensuring that resources are accessible to all individuals. Function-based needs refer to restrictions or limitations an individual may have that require additional assistance before, during, and/or after an emergency.<sup>2</sup> Individuals with access and functional needs may include, but are not limited to, children, older adults, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons with limited access to transportation.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) defines access and functional needs accommodation as follows:<sup>3</sup>

- **Term:** Access and Functional Needs Accommodation
- **Definition:** circumstances that are met for providing physical, programmatic, and effective communication access to the whole community by accommodating individual requirements through universal accessibility and/or specific actions or modifications
- **Extended Definition:** includes assistance, accommodation or modification for mobility, communication, transportation, safety, health maintenance, etc.; need for assistance, accommodation or modification due to any situation (temporary or permanent) that limits an individual’s ability to take action in an emergency

Public health preparedness planning for the whole community should include additional considerations for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

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1 U.S. Department of Justice. Civil Rights Division. Disability Rights Section. A Guide to Disability Rights Laws, July 2009.

2 Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Public Health Emergency. At-Risk Individuals, March 2015.

3 Official DHS Access and Functional Needs Definition. DHS PPD-8 Access and Functional Needs Working Group, 2014.

## Guidance Documents and Tools

### **AARP- We can do better: Lessons Learned for Protecting Older Persons in Disasters**

This document includes highlights from an AARP conference with stakeholders discussing strategies to better protect older persons in both the community and in nursing homes during an emergency. It addresses planning and communication, identifying who will need help, and evacuating older persons. <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/better.pdf>

### **ADA- Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments**

The ADA Tool Kit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services, and activities. It will also teach state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access. <http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm>

### **Alzheimer's Association- Disaster Preparedness: Home and Community-based Services for People with Dementia and their Caregivers**

This toolkit outlines actions states can take to empower caregivers to make informed decisions about the special needs of people with dementia at a time of emergency or disaster. [http://www.une.edu/sites/default/files/Toolkit\\_2\\_Disaster\\_Preparedness.pdf](http://www.une.edu/sites/default/files/Toolkit_2_Disaster_Preparedness.pdf)

### **Andrulis et al. - Preparing Racially and Ethnically Diverse Communities for Public Health Emergencies**

This study reviews current resources and limitations in public health preparedness and suggests future directions for integrating diverse communities into related strategies. It documents research and interventions, including promising models and practices that address preparedness for minorities.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/26/5/1269.full.pdf>

### **CDC- Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing Their Protection during All-Hazards Emergencies, A Cross-Sector Guide for States and Communities**

This guide aims to equip public health officials, the aging services network, emergency management, and essential partners from other sectors and at all jurisdictional levels with critical information, strategies, and resources to improve the planning for and protection of vulnerable community-dwelling older adults during all-hazards public health emergencies. The guide covers topic areas such as developing plans, partnering and collaboration, using data for action, building registries, using law-based solutions, sheltering, and caregiver preparedness. <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/pdf/guide.pdf>

## **CDC- Public Health Workbook: To Define, Locate, and Reach Special, Vulnerable, and At-risk Populations in an Emergency**

This document describes a process that will help planners to define, locate, and reach at-risk populations in an emergency. Additional tools are included to provide resources for more inclusive communication planning that will offer time-saving assistance for state, local, tribal, and territorial public health and emergency management planners in their efforts to reach at-risk populations in day-to-day communication and during emergency situations.

[http://www.bt.cdc.gov/workbook/pdf/ph\\_workbookFINAL.pdf](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/workbook/pdf/ph_workbookFINAL.pdf)

## **FEMA- Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness**

This guide has been designed to help citizens learn how to protect themselves and their families against all types of hazards. It can be used as a reference source or as a step-by-step manual. The focus of the content is on how to develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during, and after a disaster to protect people and their property. Also included is information on how to assemble a disaster supplies kit that contains the food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity for individuals and their families to survive following a disaster in the event they must rely on their own resources.

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready\\_full.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/areyouready_full.pdf)

## **FEMA- Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters**

This document provides guidance to assist emergency managers and shelter planners in understanding the requirements related to sheltering children and adults with functional support needs in general population shelters. Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) and the guidance provided are designed to assist in the planning and resourcing of sheltering operations whether government, NGO, faith- or private-based to meet the access and functional needs of children and adults.

[http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odic/fnss\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odic/fnss_guidance.pdf)

## **HHS- emPOWER Map**

Over 2.4 million Medicare beneficiaries rely upon electricity-dependent medical and assistive equipment, such as ventilators and wheel chairs, in our communities. Severe weather and disasters that cause power outages can be life threatening for these individuals. Every hospital, first responder, electric company, and community member can use the map to find the monthly total of Medicare beneficiaries with electricity-dependent equipment claims at the U.S. state, territory, county, and zip code level and turn on “real-time” NOAA severe weather tracking services to identify areas and populations that may be impacted and at risk for power outages.

<http://www.phe.gov/empowermap/Pages/default.aspx>

## **HHS Office of Minority Health- Guidance for Integrating Culturally Diverse Communities into Planning for and Responding to Emergencies: A Toolkit**

This toolkit was developed to provide preparedness planning and response agencies, organizations, and professionals with practical strategies, resources and examples of models for improving existing activities and developing new programs to meet the needs of racially and ethnically diverse populations.

[http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/emergencypre/omh\\_diversitytoolkit.pdf](http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/specialtopics/emergencypre/omh_diversitytoolkit.pdf)

## **Healthinaging.org- Emergency Preparedness for Older People**

This is a step-by-step guide prepared by healthcare professionals specializing in the care of older adults to prepare for and respond to older adults in an emergency.

[http://www.healthinaging.org/files/documents/tipsheets/emergency\\_preparedness.pdf](http://www.healthinaging.org/files/documents/tipsheets/emergency_preparedness.pdf)

## **Kailes- Moving beyond “special needs” A function-based framework for emergency management and planning**

This article provides disability demographics and describes special needs populations to lay the foundation for moving beyond use of the “special needs” category, to better identify and address the diverse needs of those included under this label. It suggests the development of a more accurate and flexible planning and response framework based on essential, sometimes overlapping, functional needs: communication, medical needs, maintaining functional independence, supervision, and transportation (C-MIST). It also proposes new approaches to functional support, leadership, service delivery, and training.

<http://www.jik.com/KailesEndersbeyond.pdf>

## **Kailes- Checklist for Integrating People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Preparedness, Planning, Response & Recovery**

This checklist is for emergency planners, managers, responders, and public information officers (PIOs) who have responsibility for developing, maintaining, testing, delivering and revising emergency plans and services. <http://www.jik.com/plancklst.pdf>

## **Kailes- Be Ready To Go: Evacuation Transportation Planning Tips for People with Access and Functional Needs**

This document provides evacuation tips and resources related to evacuation for individuals with access and functional needs. [http://www.jik.com/evac\\_tips.pdf](http://www.jik.com/evac_tips.pdf)

## **Markenson and Redlener- Pediatric Terrorism Preparedness National Guidelines and Recommendations: Findings of an Evidenced-based Consensus Process**

This article presents guidelines and recommendations on the needs of children in disasters, including chemical, biological, and radiological terrorism.

[http://academiccommons.columbia.edu/download/fedora\\_content/download/ac:161086/CONTENT/\\_04\\_Biosec\\_Mag-Pediat\\_Terror\\_Pre\\_Nat\\_1\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://academiccommons.columbia.edu/download/fedora_content/download/ac:161086/CONTENT/_04_Biosec_Mag-Pediat_Terror_Pre_Nat_1_Guidelines.pdf)

## **National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) - Emergency Response Preparedness Self-Assessment Instrument**

The NASDDDS Emergency Response Preparedness Self-Assessment Instrument was developed by the National Association of State Directors in collaboration with the Research and Training Center (RTC), Institute on Community Integration (ICI) at the University of Minnesota (UMN). Initiated following the Gulf Coast Hurricane disasters in 2005, the self-assessment tool is designed to assist state developmental disabilities officials to evaluate the extent to which their existing preparedness plans address the unique characteristics and needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during periods of emergency or disaster. The tool may also be used by disability provider organizations to create a checklist of topics to include in an organizational or individual's emergency plan.

<http://www.rtc.umn.edu/erp/main/>

## **National Organization on Disability- Disaster Readiness Tips for People with Disabilities**

This tip sheet for persons with disabilities describes steps that can be taken before an event occurs to lessen the impact of a disaster. <http://nod.org/assets/downloads/Readiness-Tips-Disabilities.pdf>

## **RAND Corporation- Enhancing Public Health Emergency Preparedness for Special Needs Populations: A Toolkit for State and Local Planning and Response**

This toolkit is meant to assist state and local public health agencies improve their emergency preparedness activities. It distills the most relevant strategies, practices, and resources from a variety of sources, including peer-reviewed research, government reports, the trade literature, and public health leaders, to identify priority populations and critical strategies.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/TR681.html](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR681.html)

## **RAND Corporation- Special Needs Populations Mapping for Public Health Preparedness**

The tool will help public health agencies to develop appropriate strategies for incorporating special needs populations into public health preparedness and response planning. Many of the strategies, practices, and resources provided here could be useful to other emergency

response agencies in both the public and private sector and are applicable to any emergency response. <http://www.rand.org/health/projects/special-needs-populations-mapping.html>

### **Ready.gov- Preparing Makes Sense for People with Disabilities and Special Needs**

This guide outlines commonsense measures individuals with disabilities, special needs and their caregivers can take to start preparing for emergencies before they happen.

<http://www.ready.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/disabilities.pdf>

### **Red Cross- Disaster Preparedness for Seniors by Seniors**

This guide was written by a New York based senior group and encourages seniors to take responsibility and prepare for an emergency.

[http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4640086\\_Disaster\\_Preparedness\\_for\\_Srs-English.revised\\_7-09.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4640086_Disaster_Preparedness_for_Srs-English.revised_7-09.pdf)

### **Red Cross- Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs**

This guide provides tips on getting informed, making a plan, assembling a kit, and keeping your plans up to date. These tips provide people with disabilities and their caregivers with guidance in managing communications, equipment, pets and home hazards.

[http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA\\_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199\\_A4497.pdf](http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m4240199_A4497.pdf)

### **Transportation Research Board- Transit Cooperative Research Program Report 150, Communication with Vulnerable Populations: A Transportation and Emergency Management Toolkit**

This toolkit demonstrates how to create a communication process to reach vulnerable populations regarding their transportation options in emergencies. It provides a guiding framework and tools for constructing a scalable, adaptable communication process built on a network of agencies from public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Together, these partners will form interconnected communication channels with the ability to carry out the function of emergency communication in far reaching and resourceful ways not possible by working alone. [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp\\_rpt\\_150.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/tcrp/tcrp_rpt_150.pdf)

### **USA Center for Rural Public Health Preparedness- Partnering to Achieve Rural Emergency Preparedness: A Workbook for Healthcare Providers in Rural Communities**

This workbook is a practical guide created to assist Rural Health Clinics and Community Health Centers, Migrant Health Centers and hospitals in rural areas that have limited healthcare resources, in preparing for and responding to emergency incidents.

[http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/318/318\\_workbook.pdf](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/sites/default/files/public/php/318/318_workbook.pdf)



## Websites

### **ADA Presentations, Emergency Management/Preparedness**

<http://adapresentations.org/archive.php>

### **APHA- Preparedness information for people with disabilities**

<http://www.getreadyforflu.org/disabilities.htm>

### **California Office for Access and Functional Needs**

<http://www.caloes.ca.gov/for-individuals-families/access-functional-needs>

### **Communicating With and About People with Disabilities**

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/comucate.htm>

### **DelValle Institute for Emergency Preparedness, Access and Functional Needs**

<https://delvalle.bphc.org/mod/wiki/view.php?pageid=58>

### **Department of Transportation- Departmental Office of Civil Rights, Departmental Guidelines on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities**

<https://www.civilrights.dot.gov/civil-rights-awareness-enforcement/accessibility/departamental-guidelines-emergency-preparedness-and>

### **Emergency Preparedness for Older Adults**

<http://www.cdc.gov/aging/emergency/index.htm>

### **Emergency Preparedness and Response**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/>

### **Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center, University of Massachusetts Medical School**

<http://shriver.umassmed.edu/>

### **FEMA for Kids**

<http://www.ready.gov/kids>

### **FEMA National Preparedness Goal**

<https://www.fema.gov/national-preparedness-goal>

### **FEMA Whole Community**

<https://www.fema.gov/whole-community>

**Individuals with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs**

<http://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>

**Information for People with Disabilities in Massachusetts**

<http://www.disabilityinfo.org/>

**June Isaacson Kailes, Disaster Resources for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs, Emergency Managers & Planners & Disability-focused Organizations**

<http://www.jik.com/disaster.html>

**National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) - Health and Disability**

<http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/healthdisa/>

**National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health**

<http://ncdmph.usuhs.edu/index.htm>

**National Organization on Disability, Emergency Preparedness**

[http://nod.org/disability\\_resources/emergency\\_preparedness\\_for\\_persons\\_with\\_disabilities/](http://nod.org/disability_resources/emergency_preparedness_for_persons_with_disabilities/)

**National Resource Center on Advancing Emergency Preparedness for Culturally Diverse Communities**

<http://www.diversitypreparedness.org/>

**Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, At-Risk Individuals, Behavioral Health and Community Resilience (ABC)**

<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/default.aspx>

**Pediatric Disaster and Emergency Medicine Resources**

[http://www.jumpstarttriage.com/Home\\_Page.php](http://www.jumpstarttriage.com/Home_Page.php)

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Technical Assistance Center (DTAC)**

<http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac>

## Trainings

### **Emergency Planning for the Whole Community**

This course provides an overview of how social factors link to vulnerability and poor health outcomes after a disaster, as well as national guidance that supports emergency planning and related legal requirements. Participants will also review the access and functional needs categories and how these, along with social determinants of vulnerability, can be incorporated into emergency management functions. By planning for inclusion using the Whole Community approach, and engaging in broad discussions with stakeholders, participants will be able to apply strategies and methods to stop planning for easy and begin planning for the real, diverse make-up of communities. Participants will walk away with a toolkit of best practices, lessons learned, and online resources.

<https://delvalle.bphc.org/course/view.php?id=363>

### **Guidance on Emergency Planning for Access and Functional Needs Population**

This one day course will provide participants the necessary resources and tools to develop a comprehensive plan that incorporates considerations for the whole community- to include those with access and functional needs (AFN). This course will build participant awareness and understanding of the importance of integrating considerations for AFN populations throughout the emergency management cycle.

<http://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS/?ogToken=MEMA>

### **IS-368: Including People with Disabilities & Others with Access & Functional Needs in Disaster Operations**

The purpose of this course is to increase awareness and understanding of the need for full inclusion of disaster survivors and FEMA staff who are people with disabilities, and people with access and functional needs. The course provides an overview of disabilities and access and functional needs and explains how disaster staff can apply inclusive practices in their disaster assignments. <http://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-368>

## Mobile Apps

### **AFN-TIPS (Apple and Android devices)**

The AFN-TIPS Access and Functional Needs Information for First Responders application were developed by the Hawaii Emergency Preparedness System of Support Project at the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai'i for the purpose of supporting first responders and others who are assisting individuals with access and functional needs in times of crisis.

### **AMA My Medications (Apple devices)**

My Medications, developed by the American Medical Association, is able to keep track of multiple medications, record allergy information, and store emergency contacts.

### **ASL Dictionary (Apple and Android devices)**

Translate English into ASL, from A-Z, plus the entire numerical system, common English phrases, symbols and much more.

### **Autism 5-Point Scale Emergency (Apple and Android devices)**

The Autism Help App assists individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and other disabilities to communicate and regulate in emergency situations. This app helps individuals act, react and interact quickly in emergency situations. With a touch of a screen information is provided and can help facilitate interactions for a “safe” outcome for both the individual and first responder.

### **Eyernote (Apple devices)**

EyeNote is a mobile device application to denominate Federal Reserve Notes (U.S. paper currency) as an aid for the blind or visually impaired to increase accessibility. Users can have the denomination of a note scanned and communicated back to them.

### **IDEAL Currency Identifier (Android devices)**

IDEAL Currency Identifier uses advanced image recognition technology to read a note and, in a matter of seconds, provide users with an audible response indicating the note’s denomination.

### **Magnifier (Android devices)**

Magnifier has onscreen zoom, lighting controls, negative color mode, and ability to freeze and save images.

### **Magnifier Flash (Apple devices)**

Magnifier Flash magnifies text with light, has 6x magnification, and can freeze and save images.

### **Monster Guard: Prepare for Emergencies (Apple devices)**

Preparing for an emergency is important. In this American Red Cross app for children, you will learn from the experts about preparing for emergencies. The app is sponsored by Disney and brings fun gaming mechanics together with the latest research on emergency preparation

### **SAMHSA Behavioral Health Disaster Response (Apple, Android, and Blackberry devices)**

It's easier than ever to provide support in the aftermath of disasters, and focus on what really matters—the people in need. SAMHSA Behavioral Health Disaster Response App, recipient of a Silver Web Health Award from the National Health Information Center, is designed for behavioral health professionals and provides access to evidenced-based mental health and substance use information, tools, and resources for use in the field.

### **Show Me for Emergencies (Apple and Android devices)**

Show Me for Emergencies is an essential free app for emergency workers and people with communication needs - like difficulty understanding English, hearing impairments, and cognitive disabilities. It uses easy-to-understand icons for two-way communication during an emergency.

### **Voice Brief (Apple devices)**

Voice Brief is a text-to-speech assistant that reads aloud everything on your apple device with a natural sounding voice.

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