

Mass Care Shelters and Emergency Planning: AFN Issues and Solutions

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Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Know the AFN population:

Include AFN groups and service agencies in planning, training, and exercises

Consider establishing a jurisdictional AFN Task Force for ongoing communication and planning

Utilize the AFN population tool developed by DEMA to identify AFN numbers in evacuation events



Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Communicating in Emergencies:

Establish warning systems and messages that can reach AFN groups (Bilingual messages, TTY/TRS)

Utilize Division of Developmental Disabilities and other agencies as conduits to their clients

Train first responders/evacuation personnel in AFN recognition, communication, and interaction

Provide in advance for interpreters, visual communication aids



Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Mass Care Shelter Planning:

Establish Evacuation/Mass Care Core Planning Team, including AFN representatives

Conduct (County EM's and ARC) pre-disaster surveys on all potential shelter facilities, including onsite inspections by EM's for AFN compliance, and develop use agreements

Plan for personnel and services for unaccompanied minor care in shelters and rapid reunification

Provide for interpreters, visual communication aids



Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Mass Care Shelter Planning:

Implement Functional Needs Support Program training by DDD with key participation from EM, ARC, DDD, and County PH, including procedures for rapid personnel activation

Train key shelter personnel in additional AFN resource request procedures, always going through EM or County EOC

Plan to utilize available local resources for smaller resource requests and send requests for ADHS cache resources from County EM or EOC to SEOC.



Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Transportation Issues:

Identify resources and establish rapid activation procedures for evacuation transportation for AFN populations

Plan and train to always transport and shelter AFN individuals with their service animals and support equipment.

Conduct planning outreach for AFN facilities (long term care, day care, etc.) to be responsible for their evacuation transportation and alternate care site arrangements



Planning Challenges and Best Practices

Individual Planning Outreach:

Develop outreach programs to AFN community to emphasize:

Potential Hazards

Emergency Warning Systems

Evacuation Plans and Routes

.....And the key importance of developing individual/family emergency plans, a support group to help in evacuations or other emergencies, and an emergency communications plan to contact that group.

