



**CHARTER OF
FEDERAL
LIBRARY
MUTUAL
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

CHARTER OF FEDERAL LIBRARY MUTUAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

PREAMBLE

This charter represents principles guiding a program of mutual disaster assistance [hereinafter referred to as the Safety Net Program] created among federal librarians and others having responsibility for federal research materials and services as a framework in which to share expertise, experience and mutual assistance efforts with the goal of mitigating damages that could occur in the face of a disaster, and thereby impact the operations of the United States government, a group of federal libraries, or a specific federal library.

ASSUMPTIONS

- » It is beneficial to the entire government and to individual libraries for federal libraries to be aware of and share each other's disaster response policies, procedures, practices, materials, and training programs and to thus create a cadre of "First Preservers."
- » Federal libraries have many common concerns and challenges in preparing for and dealing with disaster.
- » Regular and formalized communication among federal libraries regarding mutual disaster assistance will result in better use of resources and higher levels of success in coping with disaster, should it occur.
- » Participation in a mutual disaster assistance program will provide confidence in the library from senior management, the library's constituents, others whom the library serves, and "first responders."
- » Access to education and expertise is more easily garnered through group participation.
- » The Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC), through its working group mechanism, will function as the facilitator, clearinghouse, and spokesperson for the Safety Net participants, and shall use the legislation that enables FLICC and its FEDLINK program to provide service and guidance across all branches of the Federal government.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

It is therefore hereby agreed that all those whose signatures appear at the bottom of this document are desirous of participating in the Safety Net Program and as such subscribe to the following guiding principles:

- ✓ Each party shall develop plans for effective mobilization of resources to cope with a disaster occurring within the party's control and shall share that plan with the other Safety Net Program signatories.
- ✓ Each party shall identify areas of its own mutual disaster assistance interest, needs, expertise, experience, education, and specifically define its own, if any, ability to provide mutual assistance in form of personnel, supplies, equipment, or other resources to the signatories to the Safety Net Program.
- ✓ Each party shall devise a formal and regular schedule for reviewing said plans and shall share any changes made with Safety Net Program signatories.
- ✓ Each party shall designate a principal and alternate to represent that party within the Safety Net Program.
- ✓ Each party shall agree to participate in periodic, regular and formal surveys, assessments and meetings sponsored by the Safety Net Program.
- ✓ If at any time a signatory elects to discontinue participation in the Safety Net Program, explicit notice shall be provided of said party's termination in the program.
- ✓ Nothing in this Charter will be deemed to create a contract, legal agreement, employment relationship, partnership, or fiduciary relationship among the signatories.
- ✓ No party to this Charter shall be liable for any action spoken, written or taken.
- ✓ Signatories to this Charter shall agree on any action to be taken in the name of the Safety Net Program by conducting a vote among the signatories via their representative, and action may go forward as long as a simple majority is received.
- ✓ Methods of communication among the signatories to this Charter shall be determined to assure that all parties will have easy and equal access to these methods.
- ✓ Information shared among the signatories shall be kept secure and in full confidence, and will not be shared with any non-signatory without the express written permission of the affected signatory.
- ✓ The Safety Net Program shall identify and collaborate, when possible, with related entities having common concerns and shared interests.

**THIS CHARTER, CREATED BY FLICC, HAS BEEN EXECUTED AND APPROVED,
AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON SIGNING.**

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

DEFENSE TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT,
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL LEGAL ADVISOR

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, BIOSCIENCES LIBRARY

NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER

PENTAGON LIBRARY

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SUPREME COURT OF THE U.S. LIBRARY

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT
