



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration for Children & Families



PROVIDING HUMAN SERVICES DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES SUPPORT TO EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #6



Preparing for Emergencies -- Overview

- **Who is the Administration for Children & Families?**
- **What is our role in emergencies?**
- **How do we fit in with other federal and state organizations?**
- **What are human services and who are “At-Risk” and “Special Needs” populations?**
- **What emergency preparedness planning considerations need to be made?**



Who is the Administration for Children & Families?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. These programs include:

- Adoption & Foster Care
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Child Care
- Child Support
- Children, Youth & Families
- Disabilities
- Early Childhood Education
- Energy Assistance
- Family/Domestic Violence
- Fatherhood Initiative
- Head Start
- Runaway and Homeless Youth
- Native American Tribal
- Parenting
- Refugees (including repatriation)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)





How Does ACF Accomplish Its Mission?

Partners with State and local governments who deliver direct services for many of ACF's programs such as foster care, adoption, child care and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Also partners with for-profit/not-for-profit organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, American Indian Tribes and Native American communities.

Since ACF does not deliver services directly but rather awards grants to those that do, ACF works in close partnership with these entities to ensure that quality services are delivered to the ultimate customers.

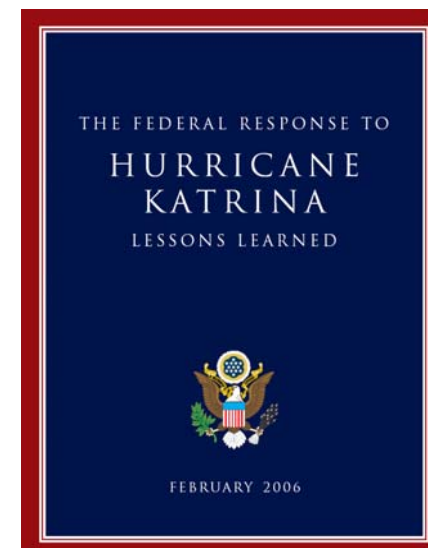
For more information about ACF program services, please visit the ACF Website at: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ebrochure/index.htm>



Why is ACF in the Emergency Business?

Critical Challenge: Human Services

- ***Lesson Learned:*** HHS should coordinate with other departments of the Executive Branch, as well as State governments and non-governmental organizations, to develop a robust, comprehensive, and integrated system to deliver human services during disasters so that victims are able to receive Federal and State assistance in a simple and seamless manner. In particular, this system should be designed to provide victims a consumer oriented, simple, effective, and single encounter from which they can receive assistance.





U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Key agencies involved in emergencies

Secretary Mike Leavitt

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR)

Dr. Craig Vanderwagen, Assistant Secretary

- Coordinates the overall HHS response through the Incident Regional Coordination Team (IRCT)
- Primarily responsible for Emergency Support Function 8, Public Health & Medical Services

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director

Provides scientific guidance and support for public health planning and response in an emergency

Administration for Children & Families (ACF)

Daniel Schneider, Acting Assistant Secretary

Works with ASPR to help states and grantees to prepare and respond to human services needs.

Supports FEMA via ESF-#6, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services



National Response Framework

The Mandate

- Homeland Security Act of 2002 and HSPD-5 required a comprehensive national approach to domestic incident management through the development of:
 - **National Incident Management System (NIMS):**
Standardizes incident management processes, protocols, and procedures for use by all responders
 - **National Response Framework (NRF):**
Establishes . . .
 - Federal coordination structures/mechanisms
 - Direction for incorporation of existing plans
 - Consistent approach to managing incidents



National Response Framework

Base Plan

Describes the domestic incident management structures and processes

Appendixes

Includes acronyms, definitions, authorities, and a compendium of national interagency plans

**Emergency Support
Function Annexes**

Describes the structures and responsibilities for coordinating incident resource support

Support Annexes

Provides guidance for the functional processes and administrative requirements

Incident Annexes

Addresses contingency or hazard situations requiring specialized application of the NRF



Emergency Support Functions

- ESF #1 Transportation
- ESF #2 Communications
- ESF #3 Public Works & Engineering
- ESF #4 Firefighting
- ESF #5 Emergency Management
- **ESF #6** **Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing & Human Services (FEMA is the lead agency):**
- ESF #7 Resource Support
- **ESF #8** **Public Health and Medical Services (HHS is the lead agency)**
- ESF #9 Urban Search & Rescue
- ESF #10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response
- ESF #11 Agriculture and Natural Resources
- ESF #12 Energy
- ESF #13 Public Safety and Security
- **ESF #14** **Long-Term Community Recovery/Mitigation**
- ESF #15 External Affairs



DHHS General Responsibilities

- **Maintain communication with their agency, regional and field counterparts, including grantees (e.g., state and local governments) and government contractors, as appropriate**
- **Support affected States by facilitating timely enrollments into Federally funded programs for those newly qualified (streamlining waivers) and reconnecting existing beneficiaries to continuing programs (e.g. TANF, Child Care, etc.)**
- **Provide support and technical assistance to ESF-8 for human service needs presenting themselves in traditional ESF-8 programs and services, especially where there is potential for overlap**



ASPR Roles and Responsibilities

Preparedness

- Assist the Regional Administrator with planning for ESF-6 activities and especially where ESF-8 supports ESF-6 such as in non-medical mass care

Response

- Overall lead for all responses for DHHS (FEMA is overall ESF-6 lead)
- DHHS REC leads the IRCT
ASPR leads and stands up the Emergency Management Group (EMG)
- Leads all finance, logistics and operations ICS functions



DHHS Regional Director Roles and Responsibilities

Preparedness

- Secretary's sole political appointee in the Region
- Real on-the-ground situational awareness
- Chairs the Regional Senior Managers Council
- Responsible for overarching regional operations
- OP/STAFFDIVs assist in planning and coordinating with state partners and grantees

Response

- Can facilitate coordination with state elected officials and appointees
- OP/STAFFDIVs serve as Liaison Officers to the EMG
- OP/STAFFDIVs provide subject matter expertise to the HS Teams
- OP/STAFFDIVs coordinate with their grantees



ACF Roles and Responsibilities

Preparedness

- Lead planning and preparedness
Coordinate planning with FEMA & other Federal partners
- Provide Technical Assistance to State agencies to develop and improve response plans to ensure Human Services are in Base Plans
- Build partnering relationships with States, Grantees, local governments, American Red Cross, VOADs/VOLAGs
- ID personnel for Human Services Teams

Response

- Lead planning and tactical response on the EMG
- Coordinate with States, grantees, local governments, American Red Cross
- ACF RA serves as Field Human Services Coordinator for IRCT
- ACF RA reports through IRCT TL and maintains commo between IRCT & JFO ESF-6 Supervisor
- Ensure coordination with OPDIVs/STAFFDIVs
- Coordinate deployment of Human Services Teams



ACF and FEMA Relationship

- FEMA leads ESF-6 coordination and oversight for the Department of Homeland Security
- ACF leads preparedness policy and planning for HHS ESF-6 through coordination with ASPR and Human Services Operating/Staff Divisions (OP/STAFFDIVs) and policy and planning coordination with FEMA
- ACF Regional Administrators (RA's) establish partnerships with Regional FEMA staff through attendance at FEMA Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) meetings and regular contact
- ACF RA serves as the Human Services Coordinator to the Incident Response Coordinating Team located in or near the disaster site during an HHS disaster response and activation of ESF-6
- ACF RA (or designee) will also staff the FEMA Regional Response Coordinating Center, Joint Field Office and Disaster Recovery Centers located within the state



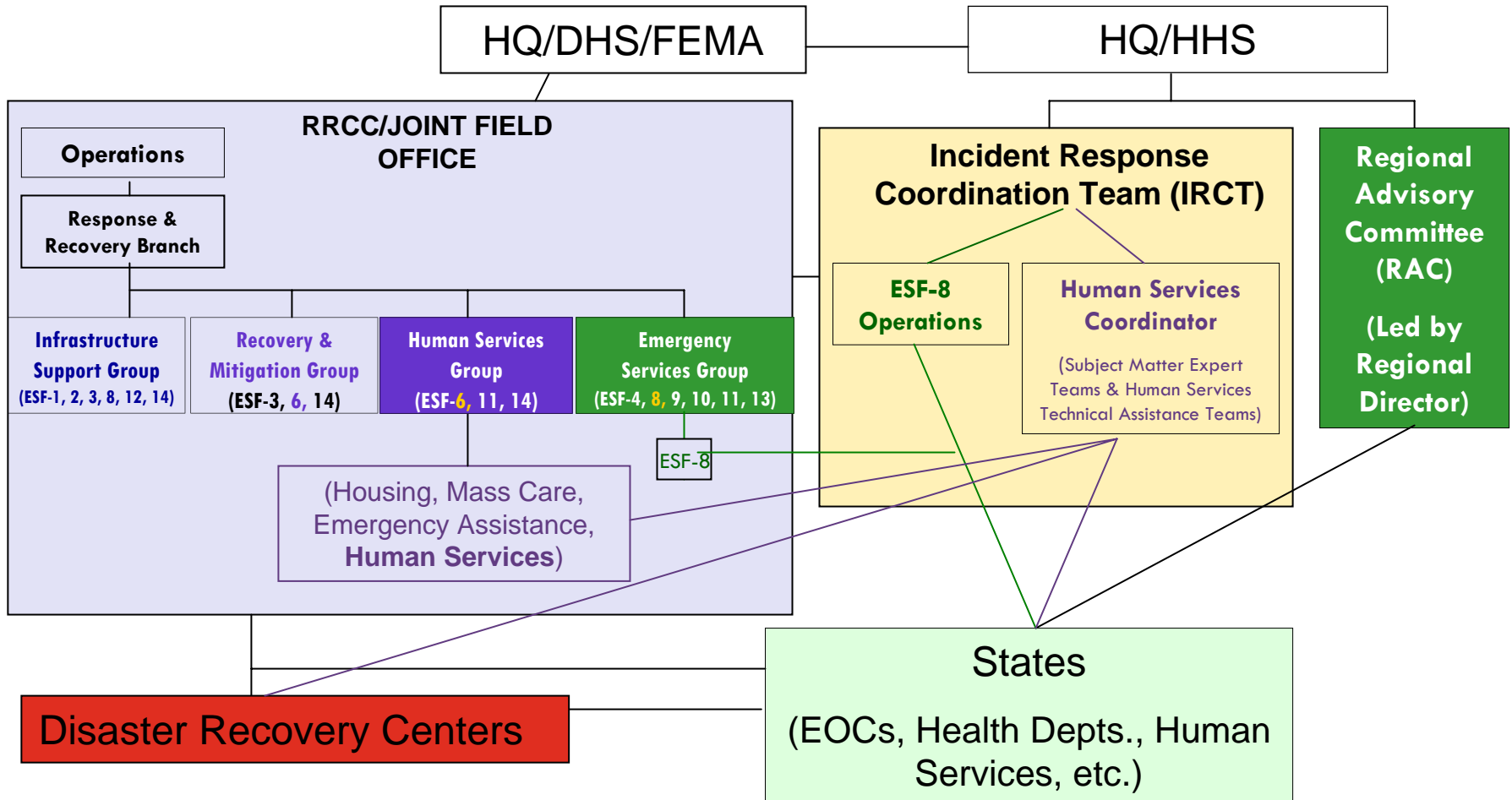
ESF-6 Mission: Human Services

Examples of human services assistance that FEMA coordinates:

- **Disaster Case Management**
- **Crisis Counseling & Training**
- **Disaster Legal Services**
- **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**
- **Other Needs Assistance (SBA, etc.)**
- **SSA**
- **VA Assistance Programs**
- **HHS assistance programs**



Regional Response Framework





HHS Role – Support to FEMA/ESF-6

- **Support affected States by expediting claims for new Federal benefits**
- **Ensure continuity of services to beneficiaries, such as Medicaid, TANF, child care, etc.**
- **Support States hosting relocated populations by extending existing programs and benefits or taking other actions as needed consistent with program authorities.**
- **Provide support and consultation to the primary agency in the development and provision of case management services.**
- **Provide public health and medical support under ESF#8.**



Many HHS Agencies Are Involved in Responding to a Disaster

- Administration on Aging
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Food & Drug Administration
- Health Resources & Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- Office for Public Health & Science
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration



OP/STAFFDIV Expertise

- Office of Civil Rights (OCR) -provides expertise re: prevention and eliminating unlawful discrimination to include enforcement of HIPAA Act while ensuring access to care
- Administration on Aging (AoA) -expertise on home and community-based programs and services for older persons and caregivers
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) -expertise on Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP. Also guidance on Federal Health Program reimbursement issues for physicians, hospitals and other qualified healthcare providers
- Office on Disability (OD) -expertise on coordination of programs, policies and special initiatives related to disabilities



OP/STAFFDIV Expertise (cont.)

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) -expertise on programs, policies and grants for people with or at-risk for mental health or substance abuse disorders
- Administration for Children and Families (ACF) -expertise on disabilities, refugee resettlement, human trafficking, child care, low-income energy assistance, Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start, child support, child support enforcement and other social and human service programs



ACF's Role

- Establish partnering relationships with State agencies, grantees and government contractors to assist in their preparedness efforts, with emphasis on special needs and at-risk populations
- Coordinate with other HHS agencies regarding human services benefit programs
- Provide technical assistance to states, FEMA, and others regarding ACF & HHS program authorities
- Provide subject matter experts who can be deployed to a state EOC or other office



Who are “At-Risk” Populations?*

Before, during and after an incident, some victims of disasters may have additional needs in one or more of the following functional areas: maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision, and medical care. In addition to those individuals specifically recognized as at-risk in the statute, i.e., children, senior citizens, and pregnant women, individuals who may need additional response assistance include those who:

- have disabilities;
- are from diverse cultures;
- have limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking;
- are transportation disadvantaged;
- have chronic medical disorders;
- and have pharmacological dependency.

***Current Working Definition based on the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act**



Who Are Special Needs Populations?

- People with disabilities
- Institutionalized
- Elderly
- Children
- People from diverse cultures
- People with limited English
- People who are transportation disadvantaged





Considerations in Our Planning

- **What assistance can HHS/ACF provide to help you as you plan?**
- **Can you anticipate assistance you may need that we can prepare for ahead of time (waivers, resources, personnel)?**
- **Who do you think are the most vulnerable populations in your jurisdiction?**
- **Do you have best practices to share with others?**



Considerations in Your Planning

- **Can you identify vulnerable and isolated people (VIPs) and communicate with them?**
- **Can you communicate emergency information in other languages, including American Sign Language?**
- **Do you have continuity of operations plans for maintaining access to benefits?**
- **Do your grantees know what to do in an emergency?**
- **Do your clients know how to prepare for an emergency?**
- **What federal grant requirements do you need to meet?**



ACF Points of Contact

David J. Lett, MSW, MPA, ACSW

Regional Administrator

(215) 861-4741 (office)

dlett@acf.hhs.gov

William D. Evans, MBA, MHA, FACHE

Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response Specialist

(215) 861-4507 (office)

(215) 861-4070 (fax)

(215) 360-7599 (mobile)

william.evans@acf.hhs.gov

**Mailing Address: Administration for Children & Families, Region III
150 S. Independence Mall West
Public Ledger Building, Suite 864
Philadelphia, PA 19106**



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Administration for Children & Families



QUESTIONS?



ACRONYMS

ASPR	Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
EMG	Emergency Management Group
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
ICS	Incident Command System
IRCT	Incident Response Coordinating Team
JFO	Joint Field Office
OP/STAFFDIVs	Operating/Staff Divisions
RA	Regional Administrator
SBA	Small Business Administration
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
VOAD	Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters
VOLAG	Volunteer Agency