

# **July 2012 FEMA Monthly Update Webinar**

## **Tuesday, July 10, 2012**

### **3:00 p.m. – 4:10 p.m. EDT**

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to the FEMA monthly update webinar for July presented by FEMA's individual and community preparedness division and [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov). Today's topic is how to get your community and service projects engaged year-round. Before we get started, please keep in mind that the audio for this webinar is being played through your computer speakers. Please ensure that your speakers are turned up so you can hear the presentation sufficiently. Additionally, this webinar will be recorded and posted to the <http://www.CitizenCorps.gov> website within 48 hours where you can replay the webinar in its entirety, and see the presentation as well. With that, I would like to turn the call over to Ms. Aretha Carter from the Ready campaign to kick us off and to provide introductions.

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Thank you so much. Good afternoon everyone. This webinar is a follow-up to last month's presentation on national preparedness month. We are committed to making this the best national preparedness month ever and we want to provide our stakeholders with ideas for what they can do in September and beyond, as well as resources to help make those ideas a reality. At the core of what we do is serving our communities and we are fortunate to have some very truly outstanding partners in the corporations for national and community service and state service commissions. This includes excellent programs like ServeMontana. Today we have asked them to discuss resources and ideas for service projects, activities and events that participants can organize in their own communities that will make them better prepared for disasters. Today our first guest speaker will be Kelly DeGraff who is the director of disaster services and senior advisor for the Corporation for national and community service. Kelly?

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Thank you Aretha, it is a pleasure to join you all and to have this opportunity to speak to you. I would like to first give a broad overview of the corporation for national and community service or CNCS for short. The Corporation for National and Community Service, or CNCS, is an independent federal agency and we are an agency that engages more than 5 million Americans through service through our two main programs, Senior Corps and AmeriCorps. In addition to our programs, CNCS also leads President Obama's national private service initiative, United We Serve, which is a great resource I will talk about in just a little bit. Part of CNCS's strategic plan is a disaster continuum. We are truly focused on all aspects of disaster from preparedness to mitigation to response and then of course into long-term recovery.

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This slide shows you our assets. Again, we have Senior Corps and within the Senior Corps program we have three programs, RSVP, which is retired senior volunteer program, the Foster grandparent program, and our senior companions. Senior Corps is our largest program with 400,000 volunteers across the country. Some of you on the line may be Senior Corps participants and may be work with senior corporate on a daily basis.

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On the other side we have our AmeriCorps program and we have three main programs, AmeriCorps Vista, AmeriCorps NCC and our AmeriCorps State and national programs.

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This slide corresponds with what I was speaking about. Here it talks about our state service commissions. We also have on the phone a representative from the Montana state service commission. The state service commission is a vital partner to CNCS. CNCS provides funding to AmeriCorps state programs through annual competitions that the state service commissions hold in addition to holding the competition; they also monitor and evaluate the AmeriCorps programs.

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The state service commission manages part of our grants program. We also have CNCS state offices that work and manage our Vista and RSVP program. And then our NCCC program is managed right through the CNCS headquarters. That is an overview of our agency and the programs that we have and how the programs operate.

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There are several national services that CNCS engages in and that our programs engage in. These include Martin Luther King Day, which occurs in January. We have Cesar Chavez Day in March, global view service day in April, 9/11 Day of Service in September which is also our preparedness month and then Make a Difference Day which occurs in October. For each one of these national days of service, CNCS provides various resources. You can go to [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov) and find links to many different resources that will lead you to each one of these particular national days of service, as well as to regulate days of service that we know occur on a daily basis.

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One of the big events that we have found huge success in, in terms of preparedness, has been group preparedness fairs. Many of our programs have worked with communities, worked with the local fire departments, worked with local nonprofits to create preparedness fairs. In these preparedness fairs, they have been able to share with communities everything from how to make an emergency kit to a family plan and also have been able to offer CERT training and CPR and first aid training. At preparedness fairs, I have seen several where communities have been creative and have partnered with the firehouse. The firehouse has been able to have an open house day; you have a big community picnic feel and they will the fire trucks out and the kids get to tour the fire trucks all along while these other activities are taking place. You could have a kit table where people are able to come and assemble kits which can later be delivered to a senior home to homeless shelters or schools or wherever the need is in your particular community.

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The great thing about preparing these fairs is that you can make them your own and make them suit your community and what the needs of your community happen to be.

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Here we are looking at some of the potential partners. Some of these I have already spoken of. Our AmeriCorps programs are always potential partners. If you want to partner and are doing a preparedness fair and partnering with AmeriCorps or Senior Corps, you can contact the state divisions or the CNCS state offices for the Vista programs and also to help locate some of the Senior Corps programs. All of the contact information for the commissions and for the CNCS state offices can be found at [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov). In addition to the AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, local fire departments have prepared these fairs that have focused on animals. We know that in disasters, animal rescue becomes a very important element that all too often is not thought

of before the disaster. Partnering with animal shelters and bringing them into the mix has always been a hugely successful event. The Red Cross, public schools, community colleges, and local non-profits are also great partners. You see at the bottom of the slide, we have the United We Serve website. This is a website that is affiliated with CNCS and it is a strong website where you can go and register projects that you may be doing in your community and you are looking for additional volunteers. It is also a place where you can go and receive ideas for projects and find out where things may be happening in your community.

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Here there are some additional resources listed. You see the [nationalservice.gov](http://nationalservice.gov), the hands-on network and that is incorrect. The hands-on network should say [hands-onnetwork.org](http://hands-onnetwork.org) and these others. Another one is [mygooddeed.org](http://mygooddeed.org), another great resource. In about one month, they have been working on revamping this website. It will be a robust rollout next month. On this website you can find toolkits, project registrations, forms and ideas, teaching tools, logos, banners, and videos. If you're looking to really engage and create a big community project, [mygooddeed.org](http://mygooddeed.org) is a great resource. I will end on this point and turn it over to my colleagues. I hope that there are questions later on if I can provide more information. Thank you, again, for this opportunity.

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Thank you, Kelly, for the ideas for events and partners as well as additional resources that are out there. Our second featured guest is Rebecca Steele and she is the grants manager and disability coordinator for ServeMontana.

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Hello, this is Rebecca Steele and I am with the governor's office of community service in Montana. It is great to hear Kelly describe what CNCS does at the national level. They are a strong partner with us and a huge partner. They fund all of our AmeriCorps senior corporate programs and we wouldn't be here without them. It is great to hear them describe the big picture for where we are at. As the state of Montana, I want to give you a quick history and then talk to you little bit more specifically about exactly how we connect with Ready Montana for emergency preparedness out of the office with ServeMontana which is more the AmeriCorps, national service branch. We were established in 1993. We were the first Montana commission on community service. These websites all arrive to the same website. We do narrow it down that way. In 1993, the first draft our office established partnered with the department of military affairs through the National Guard conservation and service Corps as well is our office in the governor's office for community service. Since our conception we have been connected with service and community preparedness.

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In 2007 we initially took on Citizen Corps is a project. In 2009 our governor asks us to take on fire ready and winter ready initiatives. We launched fire ready Montana and winter ready Montana. Our office has been established within the state by state agency to be nimble and quick and able to respond to the needs of the state and the requests of the governor.

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In 2011 we started awarding Ready Montana awards recognizing disaster preparedness service. We have an annual report at our Serve Montana symposium. The governor's office of community service our main goal is to encourage citizens of all ages and backgrounds to encourage and service. We encourage organizations to involve the youths of the community and we work to promote and expand volunteer opportunities for all Montanans so on that last side, in 2007, we have been adding agencies and service and emergency preparedness. Our main avenues for that

have been training, educational outreach, and then also with our main focus on fire ready and winter ready. We have done that through a number of different activities that you can see. The Montana citizens Corps is a huge coalition organization that is a local -based grassroots organization that helps to build the infrastructure for emergency service across the state.

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The community emergency response team or CERT is a training that individuals can take throughout the neighborhood. We have borrowed it from Washington state and it has been a huge success. It is focused on what our office focuses on which is engaging citizens. It is engaging members and getting prepared for emergency. As I mentioned, last year we started our preparedness parties. Our outreach we do a number of different ways. We provide outreach through local partners, local newspapers, TV, radio; we do sports drives that started a couple of years ago with national preparedness month. Here we do a public service announcement and recognize volunteers and emergency services during football games in the fall. That really is just another way to reach a different population or different demographic of folks out there as opposed to just the traditional medias. We do social media and we would be lost without it.

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With the overall Ready Montana emergency preparedness site, we focus and make sure that we are preaching that we are not the experts. We don't pretend to be the experts about emergency preparedness. We really let the experts be the experts. We want to focus on connecting the citizens to the experts and establishing local networks and training groups so that during an emergency, the locals are already connected to go there and there is already a network established, the volunteers are engaged and the citizens are already prepared.

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Our neighborhood preparedness parties, as the grant manager I had a hard time naming this, I wanted it to be trainings, but parties seemed to take off. We launched that in 2011 for national preparedness month. It started trickling down after that, but we had a big push in September of 2011. So far, since last September, we have had 71 training events and have distributed over 23,000 emergency kits. The orange bag that you see on your screen has a visual checklist. It has documented what you need and a picture of everything you would need in your kit with the bag representing a tote or a bag that you could grab and go. You have your emergency kit, it is near you and it is bright and you can see it and you can take it out the door.

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We are asking locals to do a neighborhood preparedness party, we asked them to talk about mapping your neighborhood and we want to engage your neighborhood and engage the whole community and we want you to work with the local disaster emergency service agents. It is focused on building the network within the community and not just citizens doing their own thing to get prepared by connecting them with the experts at the local level.

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I mentioned this before, but we are not the experts. We do host information. We have different checklists and different information available on our website. These are a few of the things that we have up and available for citizens to use. We really focus on driving folks back to their original source, but we also want to be a host for all of the different resources so we can be a one-stop shop. A good example of that is two weeks ago when some of the fires blew up in Montana and we came and we presented information or put up information on our website. We also sent it out to Facebook, Twitter, and all of our different media networks. Our hit rate on that day increased by more than 700% to the sites. They weren't coming to us for the information,

they were coming to us to find the link that would direct them back to the resources or the state information that kept folks updated on fires and how to evacuate or where to go or what exactly was going on. That was a huge success story for us.

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Here are a couple more examples of what we do. We have created two toolkits over the past couple years since 2007. The first one was our special-needs toolkit and provided here are links. The focus of the special-needs toolkit was to assist in creating and/or updating county emergency operations plans. Once we started with that general focus to build a toolkit, we realized that there are a lot of different ways folks can get involved to make sure that they are helping their neighbors in need. It has morphed into a toolkit that anyone can use. It is a citizen driven toolkit that folks can get in and say, how do I make sure that my community, if I have a homeowners association, how can we make sure that we are making sure that we are looking out for our neighbors that may have special needs?

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Last year we created the volunteer management toolkit that was designed as an overall volunteer recruitment, recognition, retention, and management. We launched that this February at our ServeMontana symposium and we will be talking about it again this fall with our Montana nonprofit association conference. As Kelly mentioned, we would not be anywhere without partners. It is all about the different partners we have had. It is linking the Corporation for national community service, working with our Montana disaster services, versus in court councils across the state, get linked up and partner with the American Red Cross very strongly. Especially, right now, for 2012 it will be our first year. Kelly mentioned that the corporation has a large focus on disaster and emergency services. This will be our first year that we actually require all AmeriCorps programs to train members on disaster preparedness. Again, we focused on our state in the disaster were for our office of the preparedness site. The AmeriCorps members and they are local boots on the ground that would be available during this time of disaster. They are already committing between three and 1700 hours of service to our state. This is another individual in a local community that would be able to respond. We are asking that they'll get trained in either sheltering, running a volunteer center, helping out if there is someone like the Montana Conservation Corps helping on the recovery of a cleanup site. It is just to help strengthen the state and to build it with a faster response time.

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This picture is of a local daycare at the United Way in Billings. They had over 1000 individuals that wore blue shirts. You can see some of the orange bags. It was a huge service event, but they also tied in their emergency service. That is another way that the local neighborhood parties can grow and develop into a huge event.

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To recap, the governor's office of community service continually evolves. At the moment we are in a transition, we are going to have a new grants coordinator that starts in August. We will have a new governor in November as our governor is term limited and we will have a new executive director in January. Our focus will remain the same. We will continue to engage citizens in service and emergency preparedness. We are focusing on helping individuals get prepared before an event. We are staying with the current governor's current focus, Montana has a long tradition of neighbors helping neighbors, and we are building strong vibrant communities. You can look forward to learning more about our preparedness parties, but we are going to continue that service and you can see more parties coming in September.

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This slide has some contact information and I am available for questions at the end of the call.

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Thank you, Rebecca we appreciate you sharing all the excellent work being done throughout Montana and emphasizing and leveraging the partners in how to utilize them and get them engaged.

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I will give you the updates from Ready. Year-to-date we are at about 5900 total coalition members for this year, 2012. Our goal is 12,500, so we are definitely on target and we will make that goal by September of this year. This slide can be found on the main page of [community.FEMA.gov](http://community.FEMA.gov). This breaks down by category the number of coalition members that we have today. When you have an opportunity, login and check out where we stand as a whole by the various categories that we have listed. You can click on the left-hand side of that page, [community.FEMA.gov](http://community.FEMA.gov) and you will get to the 2012 listing coalition members.

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This reemphasizes, you have heard from both Kelly and Rebecca, the many tools and resources available throughout all of our organizations. On [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov), the community coalition page, there are discussion forums, event calendars, event ideas, photos, the national preparedness month outreach resources that are available to all coalition members. You will also see here the events and the calendar of events which is a great opportunity where you can get in touch with other leaders, other members of your community and bring attention to your advance.

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Here's a look at what the events calendar looks like. On your left you will add your event by identifying your state and region in territory. You can also find events in the middle section by inserting your zip code. This makes it easy for the public and media to find your training and event to find out what is going on in your area.

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This is another view of what it looks like once you have entered your state and zip code. You can search and you will see blue dots on a map that highlights where an event is taking place. This is open and free to all NPM coalition members. You can post your events, forms, training, etc. It is a great opportunity to draw attention to what is going on in your region or state.

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Lastly, I want you to be aware that as we ramp up for national preparedness month 2012 in September, there are new publications offered by the Ready campaign. Starting the week of July 16th, you can order your publications. They will be available on [www.Ready.gov/publications](http://www.Ready.gov/publications). You will be able to place your order several ways. You can call the warehouse, you can send an e-mail, or you can actually send it through the regular mail to submit what publications you would like to have for your event our. There is also a form on that site that is a PDF that lists all the publications that we have.

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This also shows where you can register for national preparedness month. That is at [community.FEMA.gov](http://community.FEMA.gov); point or send them to the Ready campaign at FEMA. Next we will hear from Lynda Williams who is with individual community preparedness division.

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Thank you, Aretha. Thank you for joining us. I want to take the opportunity to thank Kelly and Rebecca for their great information and sharing all of their resources with us. Today we want to

try to take you through a very quick overview. Our theme today is going to be building community resilience which we know is very important and you are an important part of that.

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During our June 5th webinar we actually launched the 2012 preparedness campaign. It is our ninth year and we are very excited about it. If you are not on the webinar, be sure to download it at the website. During the webinar, our director, Paulette, reminded us that we collectively take action, engaging in activity, host an event and launch new initiatives to encourage folks to prepare. Along that line, we want to talk to you today about building community resiliency and how to start a project in your community.

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We will focus on the pathway. As you see the photos on the slide, these are actual photos of community events that have occurred that are a part of our library. As Aretha mentioned, you can go on the website, upload your photos, because we do use those photos and we know that other coalition members also find those photos to be of value when they are putting together their community presentation.

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Each of us serves as an advocate for forging a community-based, whole community-based approach to preparedness. This requires each of us to help individuals in the community to understand the risks they face and what actions they need to take to prepare themselves, their families, their communities, and ultimately our nation against all hazards. We have a shared vision and we know that that vision is building a secure and resilient nation. In which the whole community, business community, faith based organizations, schools, individuals, organizations that are part of that, we all stand together to manage the hazards we face. Ultimately our goal is, as we all know, community resiliency, which I think we can collectively agree is sustainability as a community to withstand and quickly recover from natural and man-made disasters. The more resiliency in a community, the shorter its recovery period.

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We know that it looks at the economic recovery as well as the social recovery. Your role in that and what you need to do to help your community, we each develop locally based solutions that help citizens become self-sufficient. This makes their communities more resilient. We help community team members identify their roles and fulfill their responsibilities and act as first responders to help their own families, their neighbors, during the first hours after a major disaster. We ask questions related to how a community would ensure equitable allocation of resources. How will the elderly and the community be looked after? Evacuation plans for the community, we want to raise awareness for all of these things. When you engage your social, faith-based, youth, and private sector organizations, you help to increase the community's capacity to recover. We all know that you are committed to this and that you understand this, because you are each leaders in building your community's resilience.

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You are providing opportunities for citizens and organizations to learn about local hazards, how to manage them, how to acquire knowledge and skills, and to test them in drills and exercises and even more. As national preparedness month comes upon us, in September, we are hoping that you will look at a lot of these activities, drills, and exercises and ideas and really raise them up in your community.

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Another additional approach that you might want to consider to make your community more resilient is to guide a community assessment process. We know that communities are already doing many things to bolster community resiliency; however, we are asking that individuals and communities take more concrete action to increase their level of preparedness. That means moving beyond the message of getting a kit, make a plan, and be informed. For example, there is value in assessing the community's assets. Assessments can be accomplished in partnership; they can be done amongst community groups or alone. You make that decision based on your community's needs. Consider launching a project to map the assets of your community. Correlate that with your state's assessment and identify specifically the gaps in your community. You can meet with specific stakeholders; you can meet with community groups, organizations to help you develop that assessment. You can hold a town hall meeting, which is a great venue to map assets, discuss, coordinate and assess your community's resiliency. You can look at previous plans that have been developed and you might only need to update that plan. The ultimate goal that we are looking for is we want to launch a plan of action. Residents can then inform the setting of priorities, go about the development of the strategies and to close any gaps that have been identified, while also recommending various approaches to increase the community's capabilities. That is one of the long-term goals that we want to make sure that we are focused on, the community's capability.

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How well can the community recover after a disaster? We want to have those gaps identified prior to the disaster, so we can put plans in place to build the resilience toward those gaps and close the gaps. This will ultimately increase collaboration and information sharing among all of your stakeholders. We believe that once communities have conducted a community assessment, the experience they gain through those activities and those strategies will allow creation of a more robust and detailed list of actions that can help guide the community preparedness to higher levels. We really know the value and the importance of doing community assessment and as a leader in your community, you can really facilitate that process and add value to your community overall.

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Some of the assessment resources that we want to bring to your attention that you might find valuable in helping you to get your plan together to do a community assessment vary. We have one that the Washington State Emergency Management Division has developed and it is entire master neighborhood. Actually, this assessment tool was the winner last year in our award for the ICPD award. It helps you map the resources in your community. It will help you identify the fields and equipment that each neighbor in your community has that will be useful during a disaster response. It will create a neighborhood map that identifies locations of critical infrastructure such as natural gas lines and propane tanks. These are things that will be important to know about during any type of disaster. It will also help you create a contact list that helps to identify those with specific needs. That could be the elderly, disabled, or children who are home alone during certain hours of the day. Also, it helps to identify community shelters, if you are near evacuation routes and medical facilities. All of those are critical to your community's ability to not only become resilient, but also to have awareness in case they need to access a community shelter.

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The second resource that we will bring to your attention is the get informed section of our Ready guide. This is a series of worksheets that you can complete to help you identify your community



and learn about the local plans and prepare accordingly. A third resource that we think you will find invaluable was developed by the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Ready campaign. They have put together a vulnerability and capability assessment toolkit that we know you will find useful in helping to have your community learn about its vulnerability to hazards. Also it will help you identify existing capabilities. These tools are intended to be used to assess risk, involve communities in the assessment process, and that is important. As states and local communities develop their mitigation plans and push those up on to FEMA for approval, whether it is an enhanced plan or standard plan, one of the questions we do ask is who is involved in developing this plan and what we are looking for is that we want the state and locals that the community has engaged. As a leader on the ground you can ensure that your community is involved in that process and contributes to the information for the resources your community needs. We also have the University of Kansas, who has a toolbox. This promotes community health and development and one of the main sections of this resource provides detailed items on how to identify maps and utilize community assets and resources. We know that during disasters, community people can suffer injuries but we also know that the elderly and children and some of our community's members from the disabled community need help and resources.

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That is an important component when you are looking to do your community assessment. Look at how many resources and the distance between them. What are the operating hours? Talk to them about their emergency plan and see where gaps exist? And make sure you communicate that with your emergency manager.

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Here we are talking about the community preparedness toolkit. We developed this a few years ago in partnership with CNCS. Kelly's organization helped us to put this together. We think it is a very useful resource for you and the members of your community. It helps you plan out various events and projects that you can launch in September and beyond, whether it is community preparedness assessment or some other type of activity. The toolkit is currently hosted on both serve points that Kelly mentioned and on our website in the Getting Started section. It is a step-by-step guide and user friendly. It can be used by anyone organizing a community based disaster preparedness project. It makes it a perfect resource for national preparedness month. This toolkit does include the resources that we think you'll find valuable. Go to the website, look for that and we think it will certainly be something that you keep in your library for developing community preparedness service projects.

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This is a reminder that we are coming up on September. We know that national preparedness month is a very important time for us to remind our citizens and others about the importance of preparedness. We want to thank you for taking a leadership role in helping us push this information down to the ground level. We want to remind you to remind all of your stakeholders, all of those throughout your network, to join the coalition. Without your help and their help, we cannot make this happen. Rebecca talked a lot about how FEMA may have a role in emergency management and preparedness, but without your help, we cannot get our job done effectively. We depend on you, in the community, at the community level, to push these resources out.

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Here are some publications that are available for download. We have a lot of FEMA publications that are available and we want to remind you that these resources are for your use. There are several of those, the ready kits publication and website is very robust with a lot of information

addressing the value of educating kids about preparedness and engaging them. We know that kids are a valuable resource during times of emergency. Each of you have heard or learned or have been engaged with kids who have had to dial 911 or take some other action during an emergency. Please visit this site and download the publications. They are there for your use.

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Finally, as I close, I want to remind you about some upcoming events that we have prepared that will include our youth update. We have some youth workshops, actually we have one tomorrow that is going on in Boston in August, and we will be holding a youth workshop in Austin, Texas. In September, during national preparedness month, we will have one in Wisconsin and one in Philadelphia. Please visit the website to learn about the specific dates for those events and try to participate if you are in the area. Finally, we want to remind you that FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness awards, the nomination period is open until July 31st. We want to encourage you to submit your nominations for individuals and community groups and others that you could recognize for doing tremendous work in your community and helping to raise the visibility of preparedness and contributing at all levels as it relates to emergency management. If you go online, you'll be able to look at the categories that we have identified that we award and recognize the individuals in. The winners are invited to Washington, D.C. as you see in this photo. Our secretary of Homeland Security is speaking to those winners during a White House ceremony. Again, there is a lot of visibility around this. We think it is a very special way to recognize those who have done so much and we encourage you to submit those nominations to us by July 31st.

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In closing, on behalf of myself and our speakers and to recognize you and the work that you do in the community, we want to thank you for your time and talent and we hope that you will continue to pledge to help create a prepared nation. Thank you.

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Excellent, Linda. Thank you for sharing what is going on and how we can be engaged and get involved at the committee level. Also, a quick thank you to Kelly and Rebecca. We are going to move right into our Q&A session to keep on time. I will let Steve explain the process. And then we are happy to take your questions.

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Thank you, Aretha. We are now in the question and answer portion of our webinar. You should see a Caption box in the screen in front of you. Please feel free to type in any questions you might have based upon the presentations you have heard today. We will be able to respond to those questions and publish them on the screen in front of you as best we can. Please feel free to submit your questions. Thank you.

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The question is can you please provide a copy of the PowerPoint? Yes, we will do that within 48 hours of the end of this webinar you can feel free to visit the <http://www.CitizenCorps.gov> webpage and see the link to our webinar library just to your left and we will host the recording of this webinar as well as a copy of the PowerPoint and the transcript.

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For those who are interested in getting directly to the award application, I will post that direct link for folks so they can take a link to it.

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Thank you, Marcus. Some of the links that we provided on the PowerPoint presentation, we will also provide those links and ensure that they are working links as resources on the webpage or the recording webpage in our webinar library.

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This is from Betty Finch, what is the link of the application for nomination for the ICT awards? Betty, we will post that, give me two seconds and I will get that link for you.

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This is Marcus, I will repost.

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This is from Mr. John Reid, if a community does not have a formal preparedness program, what is the best way to start a dialogue? Rebecca or Kelly, I will leave it to you to answer.

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This is Linda, John, thanks for your question. I think when you think about organizing your community, you want to first start with a conversation with your local emergency manager. He or she may have resources available to share with you that you may not be aware of. Even if the case is that the community hasn't started that process, your local community manager or local emergency manager will be a great resource to reach out to.

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This is Rebecca, in Montana that is what we ask all of our folks to do. They are called different things, there are emergency managers but there are different groups and organizations, but we try to start with the official group first and then go out from there.

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How do small community organizations without access to funding from state or local government step into the theme our citizen corps resources to do things like prepare NIST parties?

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This is homeland security funding that goes for our department of emergency management and then to us. It originally started as a line item specifically for citizen corps and then we are allowed to have some grant money, but we can contract it out. We set up the neighborhood preparedness parties as a way for individuals and communities to apply for some of that funding. It is done on a contractual basis. We are basically contracting with them to host a training on our behalf. We are one office between five and seven people depending on staff and we cannot reach across the whole state. We rely on the local groups to do it and that allows them funding to host those parties.

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I wanted to add, this is Marcus Coleman, in addition to that, we have also collected tools that have been provided by the state of Montana. I have just provided you a link through our disaster preparedness resource portal which gives you access to a few other local neighborhood preparedness programs as well as some other tools. We encourage you to check those out as well.

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This is Kelly, the serve.gov website is also a great resource especially if you do not have or feel like you do not have direct access to funding from state or local government. The serve.gov website can help you. It is all about making the connections and that website can help you connect with things that are already happening in your community or ideas that other people want to make happen and maybe you can join forces.

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What is the approximate cost for the Montana preparedness kits and bags? Rebecca?

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For the pack itself I believe they are about \$1 per bag. We have done different research and have state procurement procedures that we have to go through. We have specific folks that we need to go through. The bags are not made in U.S. or Montana; we cannot afford to do that. That is how much an individual bag costs. 95% of the events of the 71 events that were held, we did not provide additional funding. We help with providing the tools for that preparedness. We provided bags, flashlights, and the jump drives which have the map your neighborhood tool kit on it that will walk you through how to host a map of your neighborhood and provide links to the Washington organization that started it. That is what most of the folks get. Some of the programs have, or some communities have, applied for reimbursement for that contract to help out with some additional costs in finding a space or food or different aspects of it, depending on how in-depth the training was. I think the biggest or most expensive one that we did was around \$1000.

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How do we find our emergency managers' locations or contact information?

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This is Linda, you can locate most of your emergency managers simply by googling your state website and they are publicly listed, as well is your state hazard mitigation officer. If you don't have success there, call your state emergency management office and ask for the number to contact your local emergency manager.

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There is also a website that is called [emergencymanagement.org](http://emergencymanagement.org) and it has a map of all the states. If you click on that, it will give you your state office and then you can work down the chain from there.

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Can you expand a little more on the mapping your neighborhood? How big?

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We have had and recommend 12 to 20 neighbors. You can do it on your block; you can do it as a summer block party. As other folks have mentioned, it is a way to collaborate and gather resources to say who has what. Are their kids home after school? Is there someone that is in an electric wheelchair? Can I loan them a generator to help with the wheelchair? It is a way of collaborating and being self-sufficient in their neighborhood for 72 hours or until someone can help them that would be from the state or from the federal agencies. Small is 12 to 20, we have also had homeowners associations that are serving large communities and they have mapped their entire neighborhood. For some of the neighborhoods that are expanding outside of our cities and that urban interface area, it has been a huge help to the local first responders because they do not necessarily have current updated maps. This community has mapped themselves, provided that back to the first responders and that has been successful here.

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Do the applications for the awards have to go through the state or can local entities apply directly?

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I want to make sure that we are talking about applications for the award nominations, is that correct? That's what it appears from the question.

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No. They do not have to go through your state or local entities.

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Applications, generally if you are a citizen's court council or an affiliate, you can send in an application yourself; you do not necessarily have to go through a state entity for example. However, if you are not a Citizen Corps Council, a local government organization, if you are nongovernment, non-affiliate and not a citizen corps or CERT program then you may still submit an application, but you would have to get a letter of support from state or local government, Citizen Corps, or one of our partners or affiliates.

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Thank you, Linda and Dante. Funding for preparedness activities has been usurped by other responder needs in our grant programs. Any suggestions for other sources of funding and what if the local emergency manager doesn't have time to do outreach or preparedness activities?

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Susan, your question is very apropos. In two weeks on Tuesday, July 24th, FEMA's Individual and Community Preparedness Division will be hosting another webinar regarding citizen corps and preparedness program funding and sustainability, talking about topics and activities that local programs can do to survive in times of economic hardship or if funding is starting to dry up.

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You will hear about state and local subject matter experts on how they can sustain their program. You'll hear some options such 501C3 development. You'll also hear about alternatives to 501C3 development. I encourage you to go to [citizencorps.gov](http://citizencorps.gov) and look at the webinars and you will see the link where you can register for that webinar as well as to keep your eye out for our tweets from Citizen Corps as well as our government raised, which will be included and some reminders of some upcoming notifications.

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This is Linda, to the last part of the question about local emergency managers and not having time to engage in activities; that is likely the case, because oftentimes in small communities, the local emergency manager is wearing multiple hats. However, I would suggest that you should talk to that individual about different types of activities that he or she may be able to be aware of. You may not have to actually engage them in the actual activities; you can leave those, yourself, by getting other members of your community and give that information back to your local emergency manager.

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One great tool that can help you do that is the tools associated with our independent study 909, which you highlighted earlier. It actually has 16 preparedness modules that community members can work to speak from after speaking with the emergency manager to prepare their communities.

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Susan, you may want to access [Inaudible-static]

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Yes, I will put it up now.

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I think we are just about out of time. We would certainly like to thank our presenters. Do any of our speakers have anything left to add before we shut down?

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I want to continue to encourage and thank those of you who are collaborating between citizen corps councils and CNCS programs. We are hoping that we can continue to work in partnership as a collective resource, not at the national level only, but at the state and local level. Special thanks to Kelly and Rebecca for their presentations in showing how we can work together going forward.

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If anyone has any additional questions, we would be happy to respond to you.

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Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you to our presenters, once again, and thank you to our participants for joining. Everyone have a wonderful afternoon.