



Citizen Corps – Program Overview

After September 11, 2001, America witnessed a wellspring of selflessness and heroism. People in every corner of the country asked, "What can I do?" and "How can I help?" Citizen Corps was created to help all Americans answer these questions through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service.



Citizen Corps Councils help drive local citizen participation by coordinating Citizen Corps programs, developing community action plans, assessing possible threats and identifying local resources.



The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program** trains people in neighborhoods, the workplace, and schools in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression, urban search and rescue, and medical operations, and helps them take a more active role in emergency preparedness and is administered by FEMA.



The **Medical Reserve Corps Program** coordinates volunteer health professionals, and others interested in public health issues, to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources during large-scale emergencies and is administered by DHHS.



An expanded **Neighborhood Watch Program** incorporates terrorism awareness and education into its existing crime prevention mission and serves as a way to bring residents together to focus on disaster preparedness and training. Neighborhood Watch is funded by DOJ and administered by the National Sheriffs' Association.



Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) provides support for resource-constrained police departments by incorporating civilian volunteers to give law enforcement professionals more time for frontline duty. Funded by DOJ, VIPS is administered by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Citizen Corps Affiliate Program expands the resources and materials available to states and local communities under the Citizen Corps umbrella. The **National Fire Protection Association** and **Save A Life Foundation** signed as affiliates to date.

Citizen Corps is coordinated nationally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA also works closely with the **Corporation for National and Community Service** to promote volunteer service activities that support homeland security and community safety.