



Federal Continuity Directives 1 and 2

Federal Continuity Directive 1 (FCD 1) and Federal Continuity Directive 2 (FCD 2) are directive documents intended for the federal executive branch departments and agencies (D/As). They provide operational direction for developing continuity plans and programs. Each directive is intended to help achieve seamless integration by providing common standards and parameters to all continuity partners.

Federal Continuity Directive 1, Federal Executive Branch National Continuity Program and Requirements, October 2012

FCD 1 provides direction to D/As for use in developing their continuity plans and programs. Continuity planning facilitates performance of executive branch essential functions during all-hazards emergencies or situations that may disrupt normal operations. The ultimate executive branch continuity goal is the continuation of National Essential Functions (NEFs). The NEFs are select functions that are necessary to lead and sustain the nation during a catastrophic emergency and that must be supported through continuity capabilities. FCD 1 is applicable at all levels of federal executive branch organizations regardless of location, including regional and field locations. Headquarters organizations are responsible for overseeing and distributing this directive to their subcomponent and field organizations.

To ensure Primary Mission Essential Functions (PMEFs) continue seamlessly during a continuity event, all organizations must incorporate continuity requirements into their daily plans and operations. This will ensure essential government functions and services remain available to the nation's citizens. Organizations must consider and integrate continuity planning when developing and executing their day-to-day program activities. This means organizations must integrate redundancy and resiliency throughout their programs.

Plans and procedures must account for all readiness levels and delineate essential functions; specify succession to office and delegations of authority; ensure continued access to essential records; identify a range of continuity facilities; ensure appropriate continuity communications capabilities exist and will be available to meet mission needs. Plans and procedures must ensure appropriate organizational human resources planning has been completed; validate all continuity capabilities through tests, training and exercises; specify devolution plans for control and direction; and plan for reconstitution after a continuity event.

Federal Continuity Directive 2, Federal Executive Branch Mission Essential Functions and Candidate Primary Mission Essential Functions Identification and Submission Process, July 2013

FCD 2 implements FCD 1, Annex D requirements. It provides guidance and direction to D/As on how to validate and update their Mission Essential Functions and PMEFS. It also includes guidance and checklists to help agencies assess their essential functions using a risk management process and in identifying candidate PMEFS that support the NEFs -- the most critical functions necessary to lead and sustain the nation during a catastrophic emergency.

FDC 2 provides direction on the formalized process of submitting candidate PMEFS that support the NEFs. It also includes guidance on conducting Business Process Analyses and Business Impact Analyses on each candidate PMEFS that helps identify essential function relationship and interdependency, time sensitivity, threat and vulnerability analyses and mitigation strategies that impact and support the PMEFS.

Benefits

These directives help implement national-level policy to maintain a comprehensive and effective continuity capability integrating the private sector and Federal, state, territorial, tribal and local governments to ensure the preservation of our form of government under the U.S. Constitution and that the NEFs continue under all conditions.

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