Emergency Preparedness questions for NAGC call September 24, 2019

1. What unique tools and resources does your state have to address the emergency management needs of your residents with disabilities? For example, Texas has an Effective Communications Toolkit, Functional Needs Support Services Toolkit and a Disability Taskforce on Emergency Management. We would love to hear from other states on their best practices and tools.

Missouri’s Access and Functional Needs (AFNC) committee addresses the needs of residents with disabilities in emergencies. The committee is in the process of updating training curricula for emergency managers and the AFNC.

Emergency preparedness info is provided on the Governor’s Council on Disability’s [website](https://disability.mo.gov/emergency.htm) and different handouts provided by the Missouri DD Council.

Examples:

* Mid-America Regional Council’s *Your very personal preparedness inventory* booklet
* Laminated cards for first responders and deaf/hard of hearing community
* TIPS booklet for first responders
* FRDAT Training for first responders (EMS, 911, fire departments, police departments)

1. Following your state’s most recent major disaster what were the after action report findings and recommendations related to how people with disabilities were impacted or served through local and state emergency management?

Tornadoes & Flooding in spring 2019:

According to SEMA/FEMA, everyone in need received services, 5 reports of unmet needs

Multi Agency Resource Centers were established to provide local assistance.

Following a news story about a deaf person impacted by tornado, the MODD Council reached out to provide resources for assistance.

Conference calls with AFNC if needed (previous disasters) to address needs and coordinate response.

1. What innovative, effective, and comprehensive strategies does your state employ to help ALL of your residents with disabilities prepare for disasters?

AFNC engages in emergency preparedness planning efforts with SEMA and FEMA, state agencies, centers for independent living, county developmental disabilities boards, etc.

Statewide practices (shake out earthquake drill, plane crash simulation, practice emergency evacuation/transportation to Points of Dispensing (PODs), etc.)

To assist FEMA in recovery efforts, Functional Assessment Support Teams (FAST) are deployed to shelters and Multi Agency Resource Centers. Currently in process of revising training for FAST.

1. What does your state do to ensure emergency alerts and notifications reach everyone.

Emergency sirens and warning systems – some with strobe lights for D/HH, TV, radio, weather radios (available with strobe lights), websites and SOCIAL MEDIA (through reliable sources such as University Extension, SEMA, Public Safety, state government agencies, etc.)

After immediate emergency, SEMA, crisis counselors (DMH grant), and National Guard go door to door to check on residents and provide assistance.

Missouri has a strong Assistive Technology Project to provide assistive/adaptive equipment.

1. What state agency rules or regulations does your governor relax or suspend following an emergency declaration that makes it easier for individuals with disabilities to recover from a disaster?

Issued executive order to replace lost medications and food stamps.

Americorps can help with property cleanup on private property (state agencies not allowed to assist on private property).

1. Does your state maintain a disability emergency assistance registry? If so, what has been your states experience at the state and local level either positive or negative. If the past experience with your state’s registry has been poor, what changes have you recommended or implemented?

The state does not maintain a disability emergency assistance registry. There is a “registry of registries” – we know the organizations who provide services, they know the individuals who receive services.

Smart 911 voluntary registry in some areas of the state. Voluntary Area Agency on Aging (AAA) registries.

Concerns about registries – privacy, P.I.I., typically the home address is provided – the individual may not be at the home during emergency.

1. Does your state’s office of emergency management have a state-level disability integration advisor (that does not work for FEMA)?

CRI – City Readiness Initiatives in Kansas City and St. Louis (largest cities in the state) have points of contact.