



2006 Assets Learning Conference

Disaster Preparedness and Agency
Responses for Clients and
Communities



Disaster Preparedness

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Community-based nonprofits

- ✓ Can play a vital role in disaster preparedness.
- ✓ They are uniquely positioned to provide direct assistance, not emergency assistance.
- ✓ They can supply essential information to the residents and communities they serve prior to, during, and after a disaster.
- ✓ They can help coordinate housing, employment, and other community resources.



Disaster preparedness for your staff

- ✓ Prepare staff and their families for a potential disaster.
- ✓ Where everyone should go and what systems are in place.
- ✓ Important to assist your clients with a plan for your current IDA participants and those that you have assisted in the past.



Organizational operational plan

- ✓ Be ready to be operational after a disaster within 48 to 72 hours.
- ✓ Make sure you have payroll service for continuity of payroll.
- ✓ Have all key documents and records in a waterproof, fireproof container.
- ✓ Review all insurance coverage.
- ✓ Start following up with your participants and local residents.



Community Preparedness

- ✓ Make sure you know what the disaster preparedness plan is for your community and your roles within that plan.
- ✓ Be involved in the design of the plan so that you can maximize your roles and benefits for your constituents.
- ✓ Learn about the Citizens Corps Program and its five federal programs.



After the disaster: crisis and recovery

- ✓ Be a part of your community response team especially in reference to housing from clean up to restoration. Make sure that residents, volunteers, and staff are trained in healthy clean up procedures to minimize health from mold and other toxics consequences.
- ✓ The long-term relationships of trust that non-profits already have in their communities, positions them to play a vital role in the aftermath of disasters.



After the disaster and into recovery

- ✓ Have your staff safe -- they first need to deal with their own situation.
- ✓ After that have them prepared to respond and have them at a location to assist others.
- ✓ Disaster recovery takes a collaborative effort.
- ✓ Regular communication is essential during the early phases of the recovery process



Housing recovery

- ✓ Make sure there is a housing plan for your staff first, then assisting the community.
- ✓ Home is second only to loss of family and friends causing major traumatic upheaval.
- ✓ Importance of partnerships and outside resources.
- ✓ CBOs need to be advocates with federal agency personnel (FEMA, SBA, HUD, etc.)



Economic recovery

- ✓ Helping businesses recover to so they are positioned for resources that will come from large disasters.
- ✓ They can provide essential services and employment.



Community recovery

- ✓ Telling people specifically where and how to get help is a valuable service. Figure out how to broker resources.
- ✓ Don't make promises about full recovery – there is never enough money.
- ✓ Do assure the residents that the community will recover. Build momentum with early activities.



For More Information

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