

Outreach to Vulnerable Populations

Why and How to Include Vulnerable Populations in Your Emergency Planning and Preparedness Process

What Makes People Especially Vulnerable to Disasters ?

- Being dependent on support services
- Residing in high risk areas
- Limited access
- Social status
- No support systems

Who Are Especially Vulnerable to Disasters?

- People with disabilities
- Some senior citizens
- Non-English speakers
- People who are culturally or geographically isolated
- People who are medically or chemically dependent

Who Are Especially Vulnerable to Disasters?

- People who are homeless, marginally housed or shelter dependent
- Children with special circumstances
- People living in poverty
- Illegal residents
- Single-parent households

Including Vulnerable Populations in Emergency Planning Processes

- Why include vulnerable population specific advisors?
- Who are qualified representatives?
- How to recruit qualified people?
- Value and pay for peoples' time and expenses
- Be prepared to offer accommodations

Why Include Vulnerable Population Advisors?

- Qualified advisors understand the perspective of a specific vulnerable population. For example, a disability perspective.
- Including qualified people in significant and powerful ways results in exceptional improvements.

Who Are Qualified?

- People who identify as people with disabilities and/or activity limitations.
- People who have a user's perspective.
- People who have experience with disability and disability advocacy.

Who Are Qualified?

- People who can speak broadly on issues.
- People who are knowledgeable about cross-disability issues.
- People who are knowledgeable about a variety of physical, communication, and program access issues.

Who Are Qualified?

- People who are connected to and involved with segments of national, state or local constituencies such as, active involvement in broad based disability organizations.

Who Are Qualified?

- People who have in place and use communication networks to facilitate two-way communication with the segments of the community they are representing.

How to Recruit Qualified People?

- Avoid haphazard random recruitment.
- Establish a selection criteria for the type and diversity representation wanted.
- Create an application for disability specific organizations to nominate representatives.
- Pay for participant's time and expertise.
- Be prepared to offer accommodations.

Community-based Organization

- A community-based organization (CBO) is a local organization with a primary mission to provide services to specific groups of people.
- CBO may or may not be affiliated with a national organization.

What Do CBO s Bring to Planning and Preparedness?

- A CBO has established networks for delivering services
- They understand the needs of their vulnerable clients
- Greater expertise meeting needs in local communities
- Can access resources from the private sector
- Experience organizing volunteers and communities
- Enhance the cultural competency of government to meet needs

What Do CBO s Bring?

- Ability to respond quickly to local issues.
- Critical services – food, housing, health, information, counseling, etc.
- Access to communities government may not reach.

What Do CBO s Bring?

- Provide essential conduits for information distribution.
- Get information to people in their own language.
- Allow services to be accessible for people with disabilities.

Building Relationships With CBO s: A Summary

- Make connecting with CBO s a goal.
- Designate a contact person for CBO s.
- Get to know the CBO community.
- Meet and discuss concerns.
- Involve CBO s in ongoing activities.
- Establish how these relationships will function in a disaster.