



DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

Academy staff have conducted a best practices search for relevant materials on disaster preparedness for local government human service organizations and have found several resources which seem particularly useful. These are summarized below and are also available for download at the SACHS website: <http://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/SACHS/research.htm>

Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems: A Framework for Child Welfare Agencies

The Federal Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 requires States and Tribes to develop plans for responding to disasters. A new publication from the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement (NRCOI) shows that making systemic reforms can enhance child welfare agencies' disaster preparedness while improving their overall systems for children and families. The publication shares promising practices and builds on the experiences of State agency staff in providing relief efforts following the devastation of natural disasters, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

This document provides guidance in three areas:

- Creating a plan
- Implementing the plan when disaster strikes
- Rebuilding after the disaster by enhancing critical infrastructure

This publication has two purposes: to help managers think through what they might put in place to cope with disasters, and to highlight how taking these steps can improve systems for serving children and families. This report includes at-a-glance checklists to run through before, during, and after a disaster. Real-life examples of plans and responses by child welfare agencies around the country are included.

It also has four appendixes with useful sets of resources:
Appendix A consists of an annotated Resource List and Bibliography of federal, child welfare, and other web links which includes best practices, checklists, lessons learned from past disasters, guidelines for interagency collaboration,
Appendix B lists contact information for child welfare National Resource Centers.
Appendix C is a template form for use with families: a Resource Family Disaster Plan.
Appendix D consists of tips for managing volunteers in a shelter.

The publication is available on the NRCOI website at:
<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/helpkids/rcpdfs/copingwithdisasters.pdf>.



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Academy for Professional Excellence at
San Diego State University School of Social Work
6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 107 / San Diego, CA 92120
<http://theacademy.sdsu.edu>



Managing in Emergencies: Enhancing Collaboration for Human Services

This document, published by the Finance Project, summarizes strategies that policymakers, program developers, community leaders, human service providers, and others can use to enhance collaboration in emergency situations, so essential human services reach those in need. Particular attention is given to staff training, collocation of services, and developing shared information and communication systems. The document also includes a list of other relevant resources, focusing on collaboration.

It is available at: <http://www.financeproject.org/publications/feskatrina1.pdf>.

Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Even though it is addressed to child advocacy centers, it has essentially generic guidelines and materials, mainly in the form of checklists, on forming a planning team, human resources issues, facilities, records, information technology, and media relations. The Appendix includes model forms and human resources in a bibliographic format.

This was prepared by the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center (www.srcac.org).

It is available at:

<http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/images/stories/pdfs/disaster%20manual.pdf>.



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