



Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters

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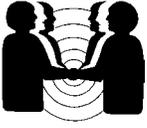
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What do we mean when we say “people with special needs”?

In the context of emergencies and disasters, it means members of our community with little or no ability to address their own preparedness, response and recovery and people whose life circumstance leave them needing more than what traditional emergency response agencies provide. Nonprofits, as well as other care and service providers, are the trained and trusted support system for the special needs community, which includes:

- _____ Physically disabled (ranging from minor disabilities causing restriction of some motions or activities, to totally disabled requiring full-time attendant care for feeding, toileting, and personal care.)
- _____ Mentally disabled (ranging from minor disabilities where independence and ability to function in most circumstances is retained, to no ability to safely survive independently, attend to personal care, etc.)
- _____ Blind, visually impaired, low vision
- _____ Deaf, hearing impaired, hard-of-hearing
- _____ Medically fragile/ dependent - includes those dependent on life sustaining medications such as with HIV/AIDS and diabetes, or are dependent on medications to control conditions and maintain quality of life such as pain medications, allergy medications, seizure control medications etc.
- _____ Medically compromised - such as people with multiple chemical sensitivities or weakened immune systems, and those who cannot be in (or use) public accommodations for a variety of reasons.
- _____ Frail/elderly, seniors
- _____ Ex-convicts, registered offenders and other clients of the criminal justice system
- _____ Limited or non-English speaking, monolingual
- _____ Homeless, shelter dependent - including shelters for abused women and children



What do we mean when we say “people with special needs”? (con’t)

- _____ Culturally isolated – includes people with little or no interaction or involvement outside of immediate community. This is the broad meaning of the words ‘culture’ and ‘community’, including religious, ethnic, poverty, sexual orientation, etc.
- _____ Chemically dependent - includes substance abusers and others who would experience withdrawal or other symptoms due to lack of access, such as methadone users.
- _____ Children, unattended minors, runaways, latchkey kids
- _____ Geographically isolated - no access to services or information, limited access to escape routes
- _____ Poor, extremely low income
- _____ Single parents with no support systems
- _____ Undocumented persons, political dissidents, and others who will not avail themselves of government or Red Cross facilities or services due to a variety of reasons
- _____ Owners of pets, companion animals, and livestock - includes those who will make life and death decisions based on their animals, such as refusing to evacuate or go to a shelter if it means separating from an animal.
- _____ Emergent special needs – includes those developing special needs because of the disaster, such as spontaneous anxiety/stress disorders, or recurrence of a dormant health condition, etc.
- _____ Transient special needs - includes people temporarily classified as special needs due to a transient condition, status or illness - includes groups such as tourists who’ll need care until they can leave, those who can’t see until glasses are replaced, or can’t hear until hearing aid is replaced, etc.

If you would like a class on the disaster needs and considerations of the communities listed above, please contact CARD.

*Donations to CARD can be made through
The United Way, 1-800-273-1779 – Donor #3990
or with Visa or MasterCard by calling (510) 451-3140
or online at www.FirstVictims.org*

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