

## Writing Your Pre-Disaster Local Recovery Planning

Below is some basic information to guide you in the writing of your Pre-Disaster Local Recovery Plan.

### Planning Considerations

#### Non-Stafford Act Events

Most disasters do not reach the level of a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA) or Small Business Administration (SBA) Agency-only declaration. Therefore, the plan should have heavy emphasis on the local and state resources available following a disaster.

#### Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)

It is important for the county/local government to engage its partners in the planning process. Each RSF should include the identification of a lead agency or organization, and supporting agencies/organizations. The roles and capabilities of each partner should be identified in terms of resources, services, grant funding, etc. The pre-disaster identification of and coordination with local, state, federal, and non-governmental organization (NGO) recovery partners can enable a more successful recovery.

The local recovery plan should include the following Recovery Support Functions:

- **Housing RSF:** Addresses pre- and post-disaster housing issues and facilitates the delivery of resources and activities to assist disaster survivors in the cleanup, temporary repair and rehabilitation and reconstruction of destroyed and damaged housing, whenever feasible. Addresses the development of other new, permanent housing solutions, when repairs are not possible. An example of a non-Stafford Act event that may necessitate the use of the Housing RSF: land subsidence issues affecting a single or multiple homes.
- **Economic RSF:** Integrates the expertise and resources of government and the private sector to sustain and rebuild businesses and employment, and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically viable community. The speed and effectiveness of returning a community to self-sufficiency and vitality depend upon quickly adapting to changed market conditions, reopening businesses and or establishing new businesses. An example of a non-Stafford Act event that may necessitate the use of the Economic RSF: A downtown fire destroying multiple small businesses.
- **Infrastructure RSF:** Integration of capabilities of governments and other infrastructure owners and operators in their efforts to achieve recovery goals related to the public engineering of the state infrastructure systems. An example of a non-Stafford Act event that may necessitate the use of the Infrastructure RSF: a widespread power outage.
- **Health and Social Services (HSS) RSF:** Assists with the restoration of the public health, health care and social services networks to promote resilience, health and well-being of affected individuals and communities. An example of a non-Stafford Act event that may necessitate the use of the HSS RSF: the Flint water crisis.

- **Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR) RSF:** Addresses long-term environmental and cultural recovery needs. An example of a non-Stafford Act event that may necessitate the use of the NCR RSF: A significant oil spill in Lake Erie or destruction to a historic landmark.

### **Damage Assessments**

The actions taken to determine the extent of damage caused by the disaster.

### **Plan Maintenance**

In order to ensure that the Pre-Disaster Local Recovery Plan retains its effectiveness and usefulness, the plan needs to be updated on a regular basis. An annual review is suggested.

### **Appendices**

#### **Recording Best Practices and Lessons Learned**

Some of the best guidance for recovery planning comes from lessons learned from past disasters. Recording them can enhance future planning. *(suggested)*