



## Emergency Preparedness for People with Intellectual and other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

<p><b>System Gap Addressed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals with I/DD must take steps to be prepared for emergencies.</li> <li>• Preparedness officials must ensure that they are including people with disabilities in the planning, training, exercises and response activities carried out at the community level.</li> <li>• North Carolina's Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) goals are to embrace the whole community as they plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate natural and man-made disasters.</li> <li>• NCEM and the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities began a partnership in 2008 to enhance the emergency response to those with I/DD.</li> <li>• Planning efforts to date have identified gaps in the areas of Communication, Maintaining Health, Independence, Safety and Support, and Transportation as it relates to persons with I/DD.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Initiative Goals and Timeline</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement best practices as in response to people with I/DD in a disaster situation.</li> <li>• Assist individuals with I/DD and their families in better planning and preparation for response in an emergency situation.</li> <li>• Facilitate collaboration between County Emergency Management offices and local grassroots organizations to encourage joint emergency preparedness planning and inclusion of self-advocates and family members for participation in drills and exercises.</li> <li>• Make recommendations to the Implementation Advisory Board for annotating North Carolina standards for training for personnel supporting the I/DD community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Description of Activities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute resources to educate, train and empower individuals with I/DD and their community, (includes self-advocates, family members, caregivers and first responders).</li> <li>• Educate and train first responders and disaster medical professionals on how to interact, respond to, and best meet the needs of persons with I/DD in an inclusive environment.</li> <li>• Assist persons with I/DD to enhance their involvement in the Community Emergency Response Teams and volunteer disaster response training.</li> <li>• Addresses issues that may be encountered during disasters such as replacement of durable medical equipment or medications.</li> <li>• Research best practices and work with State and local government to enhance emergency operation plans to detail logistical transportation efforts inclusive of persons with I/DD and their families, care givers, service animals and pets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Achievements and Outcomes to Date</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hired a program coordinator focused on emergency preparedness for persons with I/DD to work in the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management.</li> <li>• Developed a pilot program to distribute emergency preparedness information to individuals with I/DD through the community-based Meals on Wheels program.</li> <li>• Distributed more than 700 "Show Me: A Communication Tool for Emergency Shelters" to responders in all 100 counties across the State.</li> <li>• Linked with at least 36 agencies who support individuals with disabilities and the "Ready NC" website to distribute I/DD specific disaster planning resources and policies statewide.</li> </ul>

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(continued)

### Achievements and Outcomes to Date (continued)

- Partnered with groups such as Red Cross to conduct simulations and exercises at local shelters to ensure appropriate response for those with I/DD.
- Updated the "Ready NC" website to meet Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WAG) 2.0 standards for people with all types of disabilities: *Readync.org*
- Ordered Durable Medical Goods and Functional Needs Support items for the mass care trailers located across the state and instituted a process to send out a reminder about their availability when shelter operations begin in future emergency responses.
- A process was instituted with the Pharmacy Board to notify all pharmacies following a Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency to enable them to refill prescriptions early to allow individuals to maintain an uninterrupted supply of necessary medication.
- Developed an emergency preparedness curriculum designed for people with I/DD due for release in 2017.

### Expected System Change as Result of Initiative

- Build capacity for disaster preparation, emergency response and related procedures and systems inclusive of people with I/DD.
- Ensure county emergency managers are supported in implementing National Emergency Management Association recommendations for inclusion of the entire community, from planning to response.
- Promote collaboration (planning, exercises and participation) among first responders, emergency management and local grassroots organizations serving people with I/DD.
- Make recommendations to the Implementation Advisory Board for annotating North Carolina standards for training for personnel supporting the I/DD community.
- NCEM established a permanent Disability Integration Specialist position.