

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
PROPOSED MISSIONS FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

Below is a list and short description of health and medical disaster preparedness and response related functions (Emergency Services Function 8 – ESF8) that could be filled by faith-based organizations. Also included in this list are several Department of Health Coalitions that faith organizations could join to assist with local disaster related planning, training and exercises to protect the health and safety of their members and other residents and visitors in the event of a disaster in their community or neighboring communities. (Hyperlinks are provided to give you more information about these volunteer opportunities and points of contacts.)

- **Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) – Adopt-A-POD (Point of Dispensing) Closed Site:** A site for dispensing lifesaving medications to church members in a city or county following a disease outbreak. Local county health departments designate these sites and provide risks, guidance and oversight to organizations who are interested in adopting a closed POD. An agreement would need to be made between and signed by the organization and the county health department. Currently, there are fourteen CRI counties: Brevard, Broward, Duval, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lake, Leon, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas and Seminole. The following links will provide you with additional information about the Cities Readiness Initiative and the contact information for your local county health department.

Cities Readiness Initiative:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/cities-readiness-initiative/index.html>

Map of the location of Florida's Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Programs:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/cities-readiness-initiative/documents/cri-county-map.pdf>

County Health Department Contact Information:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/county-health-departments/find-a-county-health-department/index.html>

- **Special Needs Shelter Designation - Post Disaster Events:** A facility designated by the county emergency management agencies and staffed by the county health departments to serve county residents and visitors who have medical and health related needs and cannot safely remain in their home during a disaster event. Special needs shelters are designed to meet the needs of persons who require medical assistance that exceeds services provided at a general population shelter. Special needs shelters are intended to provide, to the extent possible under emergency conditions, an environment that can sustain an individual's level of health in the event of a disaster.

Post Events, special needs shelters that are located in schools, must be closed for the

schools to reopen. Depending upon the number of residents that are displaced from a storm, counties may need alternate sites for special needs shelters for these individuals until they are able to return to their home or alternative housing can be arranged. The facility would have to meet specific requirements to be designated as a special needs shelter and an agreement would need to be made between the organization and the county emergency manager.

More information on special needs shelters is available at the following links:

Special Needs Shelter Program:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/healthcare-system-preparedness/spns-healthcare/index.html>

Special Needs Shelters Points of Contact by County:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/disability/snshelterlist.html>

2014 Statewide Emergency Shelter Plan:

(Facilities would have to meet the ADA requirements for an Emergency Shelter – See Appendices C, F2, G, and L Part I and Part 2.)

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Response/engineers/SESPlans/2014SESPPlan/documents/0%20-%202014-SESP-Complete%20Document%20FINAL.pdf>

Your local emergency management office contact information can be obtained at the following link:

http://www.floridadisaster.org/County_EM/ASP/county.asp

- **Florida Crisis Consortium/Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams**

Membership: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams are formed by the Florida Crisis Consortium in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health. These teams work with communities (at the request of local jurisdictions) to assess and manage behavioral health needs that occur as a result of a disaster and assist the communities and emergency responders with the mitigation of emotional, psychological, and physical effects of a disaster, natural or man-made. The disaster behavioral health responders apply the concepts of psychological first aid to help those affected overcome the initial impact of shock, denial, and depression when confronting disasters. More information about the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams and the Florida Crisis Consortium can be obtained at the following link:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/healthcare-system-preparedness/documents/FCC-Flyer2014v2.pdf>

For more information about how you can join the Florida Crisis Consortium and become a member of the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams contact:

DBH@flhealth.gov

- **Florida Children’s Preparedness Coalition:** The Florida Children’s Preparedness Coalition is a multi-agency and multi-organization coalition created to ensure the emergency preparedness and response needs of children are planned for and integrated across the state of Florida. This partnership enables a lasting and long-reaching impact in successfully addressing children’s needs when a disaster or emergency strikes. This group is also tasked with leveraging the many state, local, tribal and federal resources identified to serve children.

The immediate goals of the Florida Children’s Preparedness Coalition include: statewide health care coalition involvement, creation of state preparedness guidance for children, and the development of children’s preparedness awareness resources.

For more information about the Children’s Preparedness Coalition and minutes from the coalition meetings can be found on the coalition’s website at:
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/prepare-yourself/childrens-preparedness/childrens-preparedness-coalition.html>

For more information about how you or your organization can join the coalition, contact: BPR.CommResCHDSupport@flhealth.gov

- **Healthcare Coalitions in Florida: Building Local Capacity:** Healthcare Coalitions are collaborative networks of healthcare organizations and their respective public and private sector response partners that serve as a multi-agency coordinating group to assist with preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to healthcare organization disaster operations. There are currently fifteen healthcare coalitions active in Florida.

For more information about healthcare coalitions can be found on the Healthcare Coalitions website at:
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/healthcare-system-preparedness/healthcare-coalitions.html>

For information specific to healthcare coalitions in your area contact:
BPR_HealthcareCoalitions@flhealth.gov

- **Florida Medical Reserve Corps Membership:** The Florida Medical Reserve Corps Network Program is responsible for augmenting local community health and medical services staff with pre-identified, trained, and credentialed MRC volunteers committed to improving the health, safety and resiliency of their communities. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as others interested in strengthening the public health infrastructure and improving the preparedness and response capabilities of their local jurisdiction. MRC units identify, screen, train and

organize the volunteers, and utilize them to support routine public health activities and augment preparedness and response efforts. Florida's network comprises 32 local units, covering 55 of Florida's 67 counties.

For more information about the Florida Medical Reserve Corps can be found on the following website at:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/mrc/index.html>

EVERBRIDGE SERVFL: The State Emergency Responders and Volunteers of Florida (SERVFL) is the State of Florida's online system for notification, information sharing and managing public health and medical disaster responders (volunteers and staff teams). The SERVFL registry supports a variety of personnel who may be utilized during disasters, all-hazard response efforts, and public health activities.

For more information regarding SERVFL:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/notification-systems/index.html>

Below are some additional preparedness activities related the ESF8 and the MRCs that faith organizations could take on as a disaster related mission.

Active Bystander Training – Faith Based organizations can also serve as training centers for the Active Bystander training course for their members or members of their community, which is provided by qualified Florida Medical Reserve Corps instructors.

Annual Flu Shots and Health Screenings: Faith Based organizations can provide locations for DOH staff and Florida MRC Volunteers to administer annual flu shots and health screenings of their members to reduce the spread of the flu in their community.

The contact information for the Department of Health's Florida's MRCs and SERVFL and more information is available at the following MRC Contact Us link below:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/disaster-response-resources/mrc/mrc-contact-us.html>

- **Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP):** The purpose of NEPP is to organize and educate neighborhoods to increase their level of preparedness to handle all types of health-related emergency incidents. The project is designed to engage and mobilize small neighborhood teams to help foster self-sufficiency at the neighborhood residential level. Neighborhood health teams are prepared to

collaborate in planning, communicating, and information sharing, and coordinating activities before, during, and after a biological, natural, or man-made emergency. NEPP utilizes personal and community empowerment strategies to mitigate the massive surge on medical resources that can be anticipated in a disaster situation. The residual outcome of NEPP will be to keep thousands of automobiles and residents off the roads and out of the "worried well" surge on limited medical resources. NEPP utilizes a four-step strategy in accomplishing this mission through education, planning, preparedness, and building capacity for distributing essential supplies and/or medications.

More information regarding NEPP can be found at the following link:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/neighborhood-emergency-preparedness-program/index.html>

- **Get a Plan/Prepare Yourself Program:** Establishing a Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Plan Program within an organization to ensure the organization's members, particularly those who are vulnerable, have written and exercised disaster preparedness and evacuation plans to ensure their personal and that family members safety and to minimize loss of lives and property in the event of a disaster. This would also include Special Needs Shelter registration and evacuation assistance if their members have medical, functional or access needs and do not have access to transportation or family support to shelter in place in their residence; or to evacuate to a shelter or to a safe location outside of the impacted area. As part of the program, Faith-based organizations can also send e-mails related to preparedness during Florida's hurricane season and post flyers related to public health (Hand Washing), Flu Shots, and Hurricane Season to promote preparedness.

For more information on preparing your organization and your members for disasters can be found on the following websites:

<http://flgetaplan.com/>

www.ready.gov

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/prepare-yourself/index.html>