

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us today.

The webinar, “Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities” will begin momentarily.

Please note: This webinar is being recorded and the materials, including a transcript, will be placed on the National Disability Institute Assistive Technology Loan Program site, along with our other [AT Spotlight Webinars](#).

Captioning

- Real-time captioning is provided during this webinar.
- The captions can be found by clicking on the “cc” button in your Zoom controls at the bottom of the screen.

Submitting Questions or Technical Difficulties

For Q&A: Please use the Q&A box to post any questions you have during the webinar to Laurie Schaller.

If you are listening by phone and not logged in to the webinar, you may also ask questions by emailing HPrice@NDI-INC.org.



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Building a Better Financial Future

**Emergency Preparedness
for People with Disabilities**
hosted by National Disability Institute's
Assistive Technology Loan Program

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National Disability Institute (NDI)

We envision a society in which people with disabilities have the same opportunities to achieve financial stability and independence as people without disabilities.

Our mission is to collaborate and innovate to build a better financial future for people with disabilities and their families.

NDI's Assistive Technology (AT) Loan Program

Our services include outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or programs that can help people get assistive technology.

NDI received grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration.

The contents of this orientation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Orientation Welcome

Today we welcome David Whalen, First Responder/Emergency Management Project Director and ADA Coordinator from Niagara University.

[This recording along with our Assistive Technology spotlight webinars are recorded and posted to our site for future viewing.](#)

Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training

Inclusive Planning Active Participation

The Essential Elements to ensure Proper Response
to People with Disabilities and Access and
Functional Needs

National Disability Institute

November 16, 2023

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Course Objectives

- Define access and functional needs and disabilities
- Define key terms related to inclusive planning
- Identify appropriate resources to assist in planning for, and with, adults and children with disabilities and others with access and functional needs
- Identify the essentiality of inclusive practices
- Learn how to incorporate access and functional needs in all phases of emergency management
- Understand disabilities as it pertains to emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery
- The Americans with Disabilities Act and Emergency Management



Role of Government

One of the most important roles of local government is to protect their citizenry from harm, including helping people prepare for and respond to emergencies. Making local government emergency preparedness and response programs accessible to people with disabilities is a critical part of this responsibility. Making these programs accessible is also required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990

US DOJ Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights section



Federal Law

Federal law mandates that emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery **must** include appropriate and accurate content that address people with disabilities and access and functional needs.

This is explicitly built into the ADA and expanded upon in the Post-Katrina Act.



Richard DeVlyder – “Nobody’s coming”



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Self-Preservation

- Cognitive ability to do so
- Physical limitations that challenge that
- Sensory disabilities and limitations
- Ignore or actually put themselves in harm's way



The Right to be Rescued



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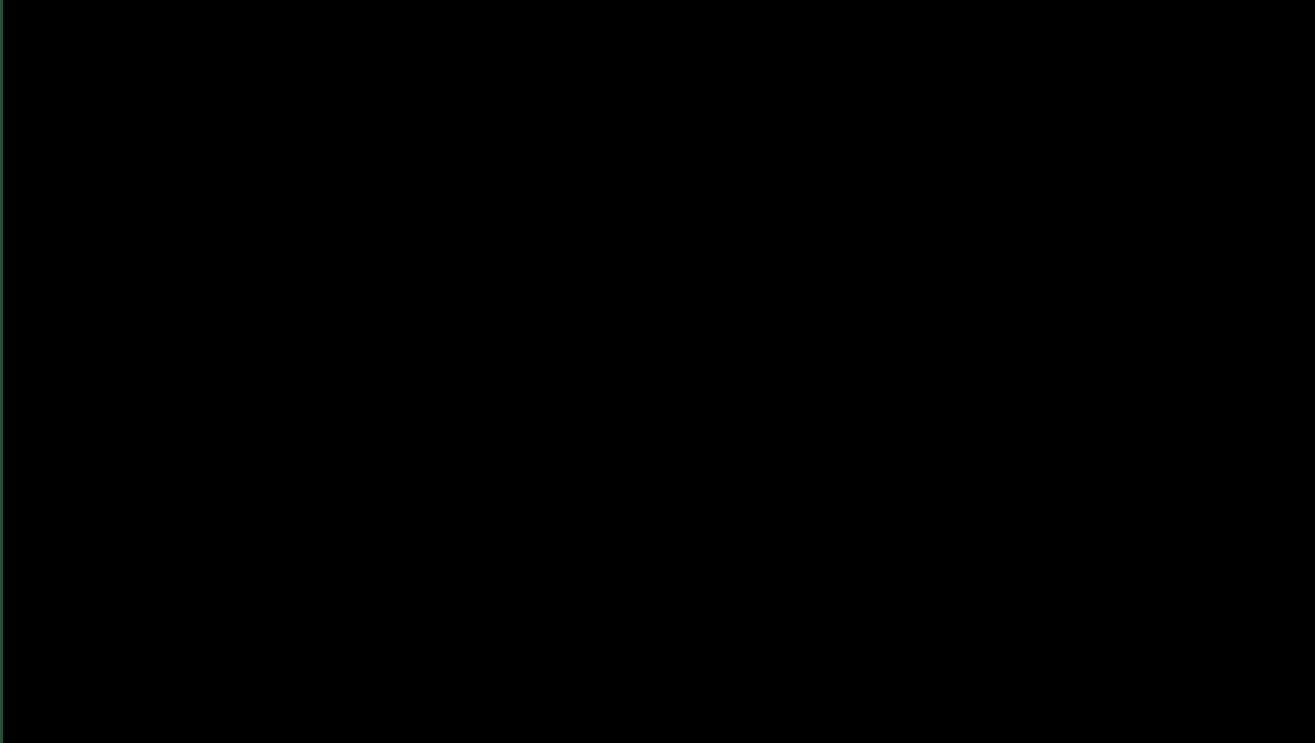
Benilda Caixeta 7/31/54–8/29/05



Unable to evacuate before or during hurricane Katrina, Benilda told her friend the water was rushing into her home just before her phone went dead. Her body and her wheelchair were found floating inside her home several days later.



Chicago Fire



Intensity of Extreme Weather and Disasters

- In 2017-18, there were 27 catastrophic disasters with over \$1B each in damage
- 47M people were impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, 12M were people with disabilities (FEMA, CDC)



Buffalo Blizzard 2022 1 of 3



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Buffalo Blizzard 2022 2 of 3



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Christmas Day 2022 3 of 3



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Disability Definition 1 of 2

Any physical or mental condition that substantially limits one or more major life activities:

- Caring for oneself
- Learning
- Performing manual tasks
- Working
- Walking
- Sitting
- Seeing
- Standing
- Hearing
- Lifting
- Speaking
- Reaching
- Breathing



Disability Definition 2 of 2

- Emotional Disability/Mental Illness
- Physical Disability
- Learning Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Sensory Disability
- Developmental Disabilities



Dispelling the Myths of Cerebral Palsy



Access & Functional Needs 1 of 3

Actions, services, accommodations, and programmatic, architectural and communication modifications that a covered entity must undertake or provide to individuals with disabilities.



Access & Functional Needs 2 of 3

- Individuals who are from diverse cultures, races, and nations of origin
- Individuals who can't read, have limited English proficiency, or are non-English speaking
- Older adults with and without disabilities
- Children with and without disabilities
- Individuals who have economical or transportation needs



Access & Functional Needs 3 of 3

- Women who are pregnant
- Individuals who have chronic medical conditions
- Those with pharmacological dependencies
- Social, advocacy, and service organizations
- Individuals with disabilities



What might an individual need?

1. Durable medical equipment
2. Medications
3. Adaptive equipment
4. Assistive technology
5. Transportation
6. Other health/medical needs



Four Elements of Evacuation Information

1. Notification (What is an Emergency?)
2. Way Finding (Where is the Way Out?)
3. Use of the Way (Can I get out by myself, or do I need help?)
4. Self with Assistance (What kind of assistance might I need?)

Source: NFPA



Network of Supports

Who can you count on? Who counts on you?

- Assess your capabilities
- Teach people *how to* assist you and how your devices operate
- Identify members of your support network
- Meet with your network members
- Some individuals may need assistance in establishing their network
- “Carry with you” supplies at all times



Personal Support Network

- List of family, friends, neighbors and others who will check on you and assist, if necessary. NEVER depend on one person
- Be up front about their limitations; family commitments, physical stamina, availability
- Share copies of your evacuation/disaster plan with them
- Make arrangements for them to check on you immediately
- Show them where you keep your supplies
- Teach them how to use adaptive and durable medical equipment
- Advance warnings; determine what they can do
- Practice your plan with them



“My experience tells me if we wait and plan for people with disabilities after we write the basic plan, we fail.”



Craig Fugate
FEMA Administrator

Washington, DC August 4, 2009 –
testifying before the Senate Ad
hoc committee on Disaster
Recovery



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Community Composition



Whole Community Planning

- Looks beyond traditional government-centric approach to emergency planning.
- Aims to dispel old thinking that government can solve challenges on its own.
- Engages and leverages community partner resources.
- Expands government reach.



Collaborative Partnerships

Collaborative Partnerships



- In order to achieve that, we need to have a collaboration



Legal Guidance

- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- Post-Katrina Act; FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination
- Emergency Support Function 6 and 8
- The Americans with Disabilities Act -Title II
 - Emergency Management
 - Website accessibility
 - ADA Coordinator, Notice, and Grievance Procedure



Emergency Support Functions (ESF)

- ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services; promotes the delivery of services and the implementation of programs to assist individuals, households and families impacted by a large-scale emergency/disaster
- ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services; mechanism for coordinated Federal assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local resources.



Litigation re: planning for People with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs

Issues across lawsuits

- Building Evacuation
- Accessible Transportation
- Shelters and Evacuation Centers
- Power Outages
- Communications
- Recovery



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

As a municipal employee you are covered under Title II of the ADA and you have responsibilities you must understand and adhere to.

Failure to do so will expose your entire municipality to complaints and possible citations under the Department of Justice (DOJ).

ADA Center # 1-800-949-4232



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Project Civic Access

Fact Sheet

Cities and Counties (and towns and villages): Solving
Common ADA Problems

Toolkit for State and Local Governments

Project Civic Access



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DOJ Citations – Emergency Services 1 of 4

The County's Emergency Operation Plan must comply with the ADA

- a. EOP's will include procedures to solicit, receive, and use input from people with a variety of disabilities.

- b. Community evacuation plans to enable people who have mobility disabilities, are blind or have low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing, have cognitive disabilities, mental illness to safely self-evacuate or be evacuated by others.



DOJ Citations 2 of 4

c. emergency warning system effective for the deaf/heard of hearing

d. emergency shelters have a back-up generator and a way to keep medications refrigerated (such as a refrigerator or a cooler with ice). Access to back-up power and refrigeration at such shelters will be made available to people whose disabilities require access to electricity and refrigeration,



DOJ Citations 3 of 4

e. procedures ensuring that people who use service animals are not separated from their service animals when sheltering during an emergency. The procedures will not segregate people who use service animals from others but may take into account the potential presence of people who, for safety or health reasons, should not be in contact with certain types of animals.



DOJ Citations 4 of 4

f. plans for providing equivalent opportunities for accessible post-emergency temporary housing to people with disabilities. The County will ensure that information it makes available regarding temporary housing includes information on accessible housing (such as accessible hotel rooms within the community or in nearby communities) that could be used if people with disabilities cannot immediately return home after a disaster if, for instance, necessary accessible features such as ramps or electrical systems have been compromised.



DOJ Guidance to State/Local Governments

The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws apply in:

- Preparation
- Notification
- Evacuation and transportation
- Sheltering
- First aid and medical services
- Temporary lodging and housing
- Transition back to the community
- Clean up
- Other emergency and disaster-related programs, services, and activities

No State or local government, or its contractors, in providing services may, by law, policy, or contract, provide services below those standards without violating federal law.



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Core Advisory Group

1. Disability advocacy organizations, service providers, individuals with disabilities, state level
2. Same as (1) but local level
3. Providing workshops at the local level, evident only when dedicated to principles of inclusive emergency management.
4. Personal planning within workshops or other venues

Committee on Disabilities should exist in every municipality



Checklist for Integrating IWDs and Access and Functional Needs

- ✓ Planning: community partners, Disability Integration Advisor/AFN Tech Specialist
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Sheltering
- ✓ Evacuation, transportation
- ✓ Recovery
- ✓ Training, exercises, personal preparedness



What is personal preparedness?

- Recognizes they have a disability that will need additional attention and assistance
- Has critical information readily available
- Establishes a support network
- Has personal needs ready to go



To-Go Kits

- Carry-on-you; essential items with you all the time
- Grab-and-go; easy to carry, items you cannot do without, small and light
- Home; water, food, first aid, clothing, tools, bedding, emergency supplies and items specific to your disability
- Bedside; if unable to get to other parts of the home
- Car; if the need arises to evacuate the area and you are not home



MARC Personal Preparedness Inventory

- Communications; getting info about hazards and communicating with others
- Equipment; DME and assistive devices
- Food and Supplies; special dietary needs and preference, important supplies not in your kit
- Lodging; alternate places to stay, assistance needs in a shelter
- Medications; prescription and over-the-counter meds



Personal Preparedness Inventory - continued

- Medical Treatments; regular medical treatment/procedures received
- People; family, friends, physicians, care assistants, translators
- Pets; pet supplies and possible care providers
- Service Animals; supplies, vet contact info
- Transportation; alternate providers



Niagara University

Disability Awareness Training

- Website: frdat.niagara.edu – links, community resources, training info
- Office phone: 716-286-7355
- dwhalen@niagara.edu
- Also offer law enforcement, firefighter, emergency medical services, and 9-1-1 telecommunicators training



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Questions and Answers:



NDI's AT Loan Program

- NDI partners a bank to issue and service pre-qualified AT loans up to \$45,000 for residents of New Jersey and New York.
- NDI buys down the interest rate to 4% interest.
- NDI has deposited funds with these institutions to guarantee defaults, allowing for more favorable lending terms.

Our services include outreach and promotional webinars, financial education and guidance on spending plan development, referrals to financial counseling or other programs that can help people purchase an item at no cost and explore AT resources available in NJ and NY.

[Our site spotlights new AT equipment, products and services](#)

NDI AT Resource Guides

- The NDI AT Resource Guides list grants, lending programs and other service providers who can help you select the best and most cost-effective AT to meet your needs.
- There are AT Demonstration programs listed where you can try out or borrow AT, sometimes *indefinitely*.
- There are AT assessment services that can help you evaluate AT to meet your needs, abilities and activity levels and environment.

[Assistive Technology Guide for New York](#)

[Assistive Technology Guide for New Jersey](#)

Questions?

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[Webinars are recorded](#)

Community presentations available

Post Webinar Survey:

- What information was most helpful?
- Do you need help finding a job?
- What type of AT would you like to know more about?
- Do you want to schedule an NDI AT Loan presentation for your agency or community organization?