

# Building Disability Inclusion into Emergency Preparedness: An Online Catalog for States and Communities

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## Background

- CDC's Disability and Health Branch supports capacity-building for State Disability and Health Programs to assess needs, develop partnerships, and ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to live healthy lives and reach their maximum potential.
- Emergency preparedness for people with disabilities has been one optional activity that states could select.
- Several state programs worked to ensure that people with disabilities are included in emergency preparedness and response plans.
- Many of these states developed materials that can be used to create disability inclusive emergency preparedness and response plans.

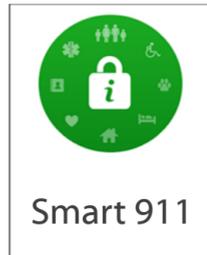
## Methods

- We identified emergency preparedness products and worked with state programs to bring materials together into one easy-to-use website.
- Thirteen states provided emergency preparedness materials to the Disability and Health Branch for incorporation in this emergency preparedness catalog.



## Emergency Preparedness: Including People with Disabilities

We developed an online catalog of materials to support emergency preparedness and response activities for people with disabilities. The catalog is divided in three sections and includes materials for monitoring, communication and training, and assessment of emergency plans, shelters, and policies.



Smart 911

### Monitoring

Before creating an inclusive emergency preparedness and response plan, it is important to learn as much as possible about people with disabilities in each state and identify their needs. This section includes links to surveys, national datasets, and examples of how states have used data to identify needs.



### Tools and Resources

It is critical to educate and provide training not only to people with disabilities and their caregivers, but also to emergency planners, first responders, and other members of the community who play an important role in making sure that people with disabilities are included in emergency preparedness and response plans. This section includes materials that states have used for that purpose.



### Assessing Shelters

Well prepared communities have disability inclusive emergency plans, accessible shelters, and policies to address the challenges that people with disabilities are most likely to experience during emergencies and disasters. This section includes materials that states have used to assess and improve shelters' capacity to provide services to people with disabilities.

## How to Use the Catalog

Building disability inclusion into emergency preparedness requires a coordinated effort among states, emergency managers, community-based organizations, people with disabilities, and health providers across all planning stages.

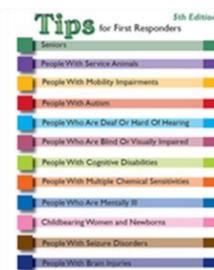
Use the emergency preparedness catalog to

- Learn how to identify the characteristics and needs of people with disabilities in your state.
- Find materials that people with disabilities and their caregivers can use to prepare for an emergency.
- Train emergency management agencies on how to develop plans that address the needs of people with disabilities in emergencies and disasters.
- Train first responders to address the specific needs of people with disabilities.
- Work with community-based organizations and other entities that regularly provide services to people with disabilities to plan for emergencies and disasters.
- Assess and improve capacity of shelters to provide appropriate care and timely access to people with disabilities.

## Examples of Resources from the Catalog



The "Ready Now!" Toolkit from the Oregon Office on Disability and Health. This tool is for people with disabilities, and it emphasizes independence, allowing each person to address his or her specific needs.



**Tips for First Responders:** Developed by the University of New Mexico's Center for Development and Disability, this simple, easy-to-use tip sheet provides information for assisting people with a wide range of disabilities.



**ADA Compliance Tip Sheet:** Developed by the Disability and Health Program at Alabama Department of Public Health, this resource can help shelter managers assess common accessibility barriers and find solutions.

## Visit the Emergency Preparedness Catalog at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/emergencypreparedness.html>

## Contact us at:

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