



Training and Education on the Needs of Individuals with Disabilities and Other Access and Functional Needs Following Hurricane Harvey

Kayla S. Sweet, Nick Wings-Yanze, Patricia S. Lynch, Marcia L. Montague, Amy N. Sharp, Laura M. Stough

ReDiscovery Summary:

ReDiscovery was created to support individuals with disabilities recovering from Hurricane Harvey by providing training, technical assistance, and educational materials to case managers, disaster- and disability-related organizations, and emergency personnel on long-term recovery services and resources.

Disaster Impacts/Barriers:

- Loss of home
- Property damage
- Loss of life
- Likely to incur injuries
- Health related complications
- Receive less assistance
- Separated from caregivers/family members
- Recovery is longer

Key Needs in Long-term Disaster Recovery:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Social Supports
- Education

ReDiscovery Training:

- Training, technical assistance, & educational resources
- In-person or online for:
 - Disaster case managers
 - Offices of Emergency Management
 - Long-term recovery committees
 - Voluntary organizations active in disaster
 - Emergency personnel
 - Disability-related organizations
 - Disaster-related organizations
 - Teachers and school personnel

Hurricane Harvey:

- 41 Federally declared disaster counties in Texas
- ~780,000 individuals evacuated (FEMA, 2017)
- 22.9% disability rate for Texas (CDC, 2018)
- ~ 178,620 individuals with disabilities evacuated

Impact:

- **560** organizations
- **1,517** individuals trained, met with, or were provided technical assistance

Lessons Learned:

- Pre-established relationships with organizations are critically important
- Resources and services decrease as time post-disaster increases
- Rural areas lack resources and services

Collaboration:

- Awareness of disability and disaster-related organizations within counties
- Invitation of individuals with disability and/or access and functional needs to disaster planning meetings
- Contacted managers and key personnel of disaster-related organizations, city officials, offices of emergency management, and VOADs



CENTER ON DISABILITY
& DEVELOPMENT



The University of Texas at Austin

Texas Center for Disability Studies

ReDiscovery Project was funded by the American Red Cross and the Rebuild Texas Fund in collaboration with the Center for Disaster Philanthropy.