

# Florida Housing Coalition Hurricane Member Update Webinar

March 18, 2022  
Sponsored by Fannie Mae

# AGENDA

- Announcements
- Preparing Individuals Experiencing Homelessness for a Coming Weather Event



# Training Announcement

## Affordable Housing Funding Sources Part 2:

March 22, 2022 at 10:00 am

Register at

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com  
/register/7823614986292048143](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7823614986292048143)



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**Thursday, March 24, 2022 2-3:30**



**SHIP Education Efforts  
Made Possible  
Thanks to the  
Catalyst Program**

**Presented by  
Aida Andujar and  
Kody Glazer**

**Avoiding Conflict of Interest  
Issues with Staff, Contractors,  
and Local Officials**

Register at  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3874941076424523279>



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Congratulations to the Florida Housing Coalition's  
**Resilience & Disaster Recovery Team**  
for receiving the *2021 Public/Private Achievement Award*  
from the Governor's Hurricane Conference



GOVERNOR'S HURRICANE CONFERENCE  
MAY 8-13 | PALM BEACH CONVENTION CTR  
& HILTON WEST PALM BEACH

Register at

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi5pdjygZv2AhVKDkQIHfnaBwUQFnoECAgQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fflghc.org%2Fregistration%2F&usg=AOvVaw0BWfM-8xSuS8Chm2kbINMQ>



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# 2022 ANNUAL STATEWIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE

HOME **MATTERS**  
 IN FLORIDA



Hosted by the FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION

August 29th – August 31st

IN-PERSON AT THE ROSEN CENTRE, ORLANDO FL

# Preparing Individuals Experiencing Homelessness for a Coming Weather Event

Amanda Wander  
Director of Ending Homelessness  
Florida Housing Coalition  
[wander@flhousing.org](mailto:wander@flhousing.org)

# Agenda

Considerations

Roles in Planning

Special Needs Shelters

Disaster Planning

Q & A



# Considerations



Type of weather



Severity



Impact

# Florida Weather

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- Tropical Storms
- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Extreme Heat
- Freezing Temperatures
- Wildfires



# Considerations

Disaster plan should include all levels and consider the following:

- Safety level of existing shelter
- Plan local relocations if the existing shelter is not appropriate or safe for the expected conditions
- In case of mandatory evacuation, be prepared with a plan that includes *transportation, provision, accommodations, staffing*

# Low Severity

- Consult your Disaster Response Protocol! The CoC should have one as well as individual providers and programs
- Low severity may allow for using existing shelter buildings and allowing for additional guests.
- Make sure you have enough provisions for existing guests and new guests seeking shelter.
- Have enough water, food and basic needs items for one week for everyone
- Assume staff will have to stay as well and include them in your provision calculations
- Start working with clients to get them on the Florida Special Needs Registry if needed.

# Medium Severity

Your existing shelters location or facility may not be safe enough for the coming conditions.

Plan to relocate quests to other, local accommodations that are safe.

- Places of worship
- Local Armories
- Schools
- Hotels/Motels







SILVER LINING



## Medium Severity

- Homeless service providers should help clients contact family and friends they could stay with in an emergency.
- If clients have individual places to stay safely and temporarily, that would be preferred in many cases.
- Sometimes this sparks family and friend reunification!



# High Severity

- Mandatory evacuation
- Get clients already on the Special Needs Registry to appropriate disaster shelters
- Have an established evacuation plan including proposed routes of travel
- Take enough provisions with you for everyone being evacuated for at least 3 days

# Outreach to Unsheltered



A week prior to onset of weather, have outreach workers visit camps to share info on;



Potential shelter locations



Emergency contacts



Provide additional tarps and large plastic storage containers to help keep belongings dry



Leave cards/flyers with a number to call if they need help seeking shelter immediately

# Outreach to Unsheltered

Continue outreach over the coming days as long as it is safe to do so.

If possible 1-2 days prior to the weather event, use a bus/large passenger van to help gather unsheltered clients to take to shelter along with a few personal items.

As the conditions worsen and seem more imminent, those reluctant to seek shelter, do change their minds.

Keep offering info and shelter

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- For those refusing shelter, **help them be as safe as possible**

## Outreach to Unsheltered

- Assess for dead trees, low lying areas near there sleeping areas
- Encourage relocation of sleeping area if they are directly in harms way

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## Roles in Planning

- Continuum of Care
- Service Providers
- State/County Depts. of Emergency Management
- Health Departments



# Continuum of Care (CoC)

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- Your local CoC is responsible for **coordinating and overseeing homeless services** and programs through a network of providers.
- They know how many **residential programs** exist, how many **beds** are in each and how full a program is at any given time
- They should be **leading disaster planning efforts** in partnership with county emergency management and health departments
- They should be **exchanging info** with service providers



# Homeless Service Providers

- internal P&Ps specific to residential programs on protocol for preparing/responding to disaster.
- providers disaster plans shared with CoC in case of provider staff turn over.
- include contact information so CoC can reach you and program staff for status updates.

# Regional Emergency Management Coordination Teams

- DEM can help with planning, contacts, communication and identification of **RESOURCES!**
- Expert staff lend capacity to response
- Form a relationship and plan before disaster strikes!
- Regional team can help connect you with your county DEM
- Find your regional contact here [Regional Coordinators | Florida Disaster](#)

## Regional Emergency Management Coordination Team

Manager	<a href="#">Jim Roberts</a>
Region 1	<a href="#">Jim Roberts</a>
Region 2	<a href="#">Willie Bouie</a>
Region 3	<a href="#">Aida Washburn</a>
Region 4	<a href="#">Paul Siddall</a>
Region 5	<a href="#">Austin Beeghly</a>
Region 6	<a href="#">Jodie Fiske</a>
Region 7	<a href="#">Claudia Baker</a>



# Health Departments



- Make call on what temps are life threatening
- Assist in climate weather planning
- Shared community decision making
- Health/medical expertise/considerations

- [County Health Departments - Location Finder | Florida Department of Health \(floridahealth.gov\)](https://www.floridahealth.gov/locations/county-health-departments/location-finder)





# Special Needs Shelters

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- Residents of emergency shelter, transitional housing and those living in unsheltered settings may have special medical needs that qualify them to be added to the special needs shelter registry.
- Make this a question upon intake rather than the onset of emergency!
- Help clients register at [Home Page - Special Needs Registry \(flhealthresponse.com\)](https://flhealthresponse.com)

# More on SpNS

- Health Departments administer/staff Special Needs Shelter
- Eligibility
  - special medical needs
  - care exceeds the basic first aid
  - impairments or disabilities who are medically stable and do not require medical care
- People with disabilities are not required to go to a Special Needs Shelter. Some people with disabilities can be safely accommodated in a general population shelter.
- The capabilities of each SpNS varies based upon a community's needs and available resources. SpNS by county available [Shelters | Florida Disaster](#)

# Disaster Planning

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- What it is
- Characteristics of a good plan
- Planning Cycle
- Resources
- Special Accommodations
- Communication



# What is a Disaster Response Plan?

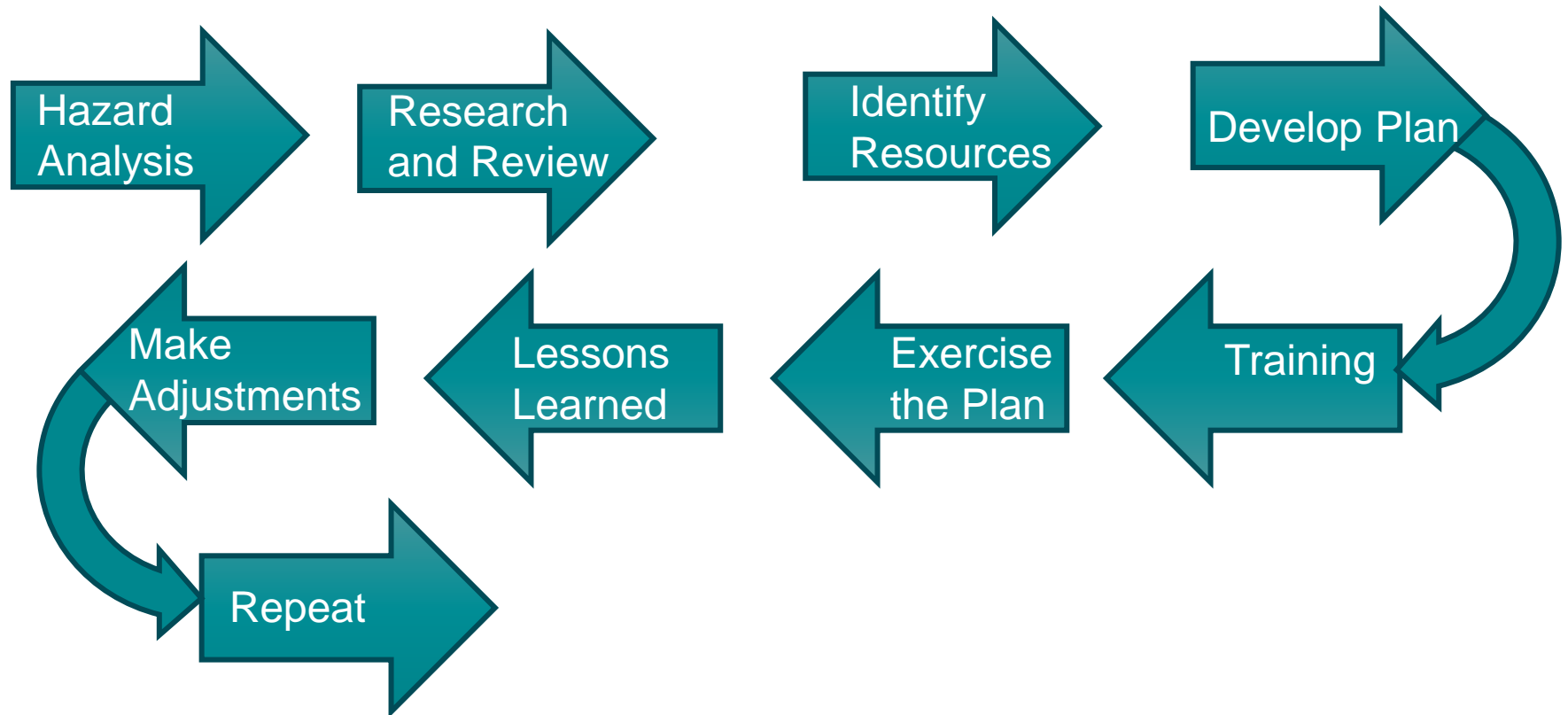
- Aka; Emergency Operations Plan, Disaster Management Plan, Etc.
- Is a guide/recipe for what to do when disaster strikes
- Gives clear direction for those who will respond
- Defines aggregated upon assumptions
- Must be flexible and adaptable to multiple situations

# Characteristics of a Good Plan

- The plan must be **based on facts** or valid assumptions
- The plan must be **based on available community resources**
- The plan must provide the **necessary organizational structure**
- Use **understandable language** and terminology
- The plan must be **coordinated, published and exercised**



# Disaster Planning Cycle



**\*Include those with homelessness experiencing in planning!!!**

# Resources

- **National Health Care for the Homeless Council**
- **One page educational resources** great for staff and clients on
  - Planning a training or dialogue
  - Extreme Heat/Cold
  - Hurricanes/Tornadoes/Floods
  - Wildfire/Landslides/Earthquakes
- [Surviving Severe Weather: Tools to Promote Emergency Preparedness for People Experiencing Homelessness | National Health Care for the Homeless Council \(nhchc.org\)](http://nhchc.org)

# Resources



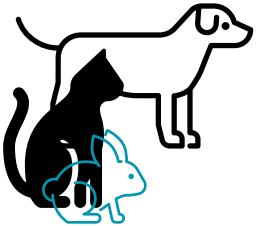
- **Ready.gov (FEMA docs)**
- Free print preparedness materials
- Hazard Info Sheets
- Are you ready? Guide
  - [Disasters and Emergencies | Ready.gov](#)
- Guidance on making a plan
  - [Make A Plan | Ready.gov](#)

# Special Accommodations



## Individuals with disabilities/mobility issues

- Logistics in transport, medical supplies, movement



## Pets/Animals

- Some shelters allow for pets
- Partner with humane society/local rescues for temp placements

# Communication

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- Automated texting service
- Alternate communication
- Follow up/Check ins
  - Individual
  - Daily set time for group
- Communicate necessary revisions to executing the Emergency Plan
- Facilitate open feedback loop to improve plan



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Ending Homelessness Team Director  
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# Florida Housing Coalition has an **Ending Homelessness Team** working on **Solutions**

## Consulting Expertise includes:

- Continuum of Care Board and Staff Training
- Strategic and Action Planning
- Housing and Homeless Service Provider Training
- 1:1 Consulting for Community Specific Needs
- Racial Equity in Homelessness Services
- Homelessness Data Analysis
- Program Policy and Procedure Development and Review
- And more!

ENDING  
HOMELESSNESS IN  
FLORIDA IS WITHIN  
REACH



Check out our Trauma-Informed Care training for **FREE!**  
[See our courses on ELEVATE](#)



For more info contact Amanda Wander,  
Ending Homelessness Team Director at  
[wander@flhousing.org](mailto:wander@flhousing.org)



# Next Week's Training



## Disaster-Related Volunteerism and Assisting Survivors in the Field

**March 25 at 1:30 pm**

Register at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3729046882365605388>



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# Technical Assistance is Available

Available Daily: 1 (800) 677-4548

## Options for Further Assistance Include:

Phone and Email consultation

Site Visits

Register at [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org) for:

Workshops

Webinars



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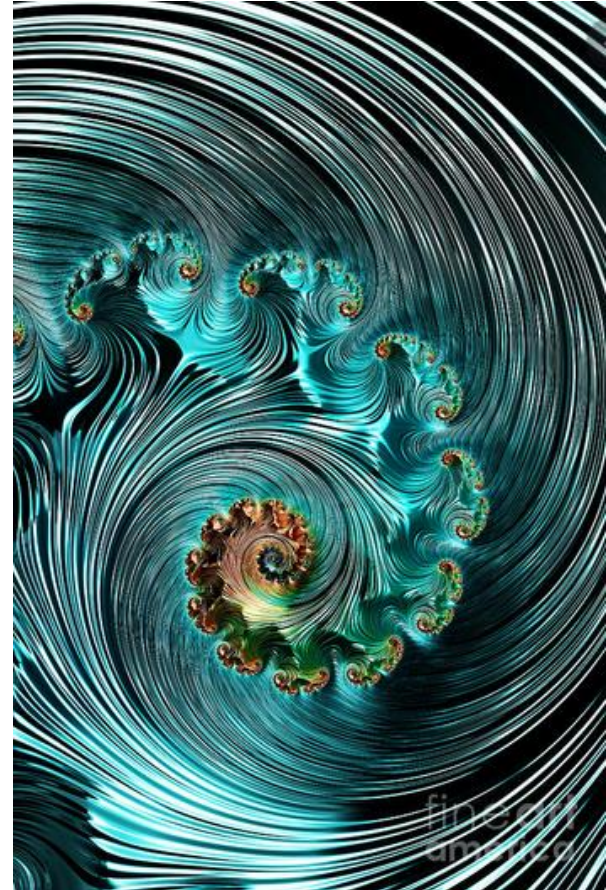
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# Thank You!

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