

# Community Planning and Capacity Building

## Recovery Support Function



Following a disaster, communities and their leaders are often forced to make numerous and complex decisions. These decisions range widely, such as the need to encourage private sector reinvestment, restore affordable housing, preempt negative cascading effects, build resiliency, and address promises made to residents that they'll soon be able to return home. The implications of these decisions may impact community prosperity, safety and identity, for years to come. Community leaders will often be compelled to act quickly and may face limited capacity to tackle complex organization, coordination and planning challenges. While each community will develop its own definition of a "successful recovery," many will need help in getting there.

### What is Community Planning and Capacity Building?

The Community Planning and Capacity Building – or CPCB – Recovery Support Function strives to restore and strengthen state, territorial, tribal, and local governments' ability to lead, plan engage the community, and manage recovery. Government and non-governmental partners, coordinated by FEMA, come together to share information and pool resources – resources that can include technical assistance, program support, or funding for planning and capacity building-related initiatives.



MARCH 2015

### Mission of Community Planning and Capacity Building RSF:

The mission of the CPCB RSF is to support and build recovery capacities and community planning resources of local, state, territorial, and tribal governments needed to effectively lead, plan for, and manage disaster recovery activities in large, unique, or catastrophic incidents. The CPCB RSF achieves this mission through the coordination of partner resources and expertise to build recovery capacities and inclusive community planning efforts.

### Coordinating/Primary Agency:

Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency

### Supporting Agencies Include:

Corp. for National & Community Service  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Commerce  
Department of Education  
Department of Energy  
Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development  
Department of Interior  
Department of Justice  
Department of Transportation  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Nat. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster  
Small Business Administration  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Access Board

### Non-Governmental Partners Include:

American Planning Association  
American Red Cross  
International Economic Development Council  
International City/County Management Association  
National Association of Development Organizations  
The American Institute of Architects  
...and many others

# Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function

## What does CPCB do BEFORE a disaster?

Before a disaster, CPCB coordinated assistance helps states, territories, tribes, and local governments prepare for disaster recovery. CPCB provides guidance materials, tools and training on developing pre-disaster recovery plans. CPCB and its partners help local governments identify and develop their own local recovery networks and build resilience. FEMA as coordinating agency, helps connect stakeholders to resources available through CPCB RSF partners – including other FEMA programs, other Federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. *FEMA's Pre-Disaster Planning Guide* and resource library provide links to resources specifically designed to help government officials understand the challenges associated with disasters so they are better prepared when the unthinkable happens.



300 members of the Galveston, Texas, recovery committee following Hurricane Ike.

## What does CPCB do AFTER a disaster?

The CPCB RSF coordinates the support provided by partners. Partner support is tailored to the needs of disaster-impacted states, territories, tribes, and local governments in four critical mission areas: (1) community recovery leadership; (2) recovery planning; (3) community engagement and communications; and (4) recovery management. Examples of support: :

- *Peer-to-Peer Forums* give community leaders an opportunity to ask questions and benefit from the recovery lessons learned by others.
- *Recovery Planning* is often needed by communities to begin an organized process; CPCB partners, including universities and NGOs, can pool resources to provide technical assistance, staffing support and funding.
- *Public Outreach*, after a disaster can be fraught with challenges, including resident displacement; CPCB partners can advise communities on how to improve their odds of reaching those they need to reach.
- *Local Disaster Recovery Managers* can save a community time and money just when it matters the most; CPCB partners can help communities quickly and accurately define local management challenges and needs and identify post-disaster staffing needs and resources.
- *Tools, Guidance, and Training* and other just-in-time materials are available through the online Community Recovery Management Toolkit

## Related Resources:

Community Recovery Management Toolkit:  
<http://www.fema.gov/national-disaster-recovery-framework/community-recovery-management-toolkit>

Does your community have a hazard mitigation plan?  
Local Mitigation Planning Handbook –  
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31598>

Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning –  
<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/19261>

Does your community have a pre-disaster recovery ordinance?  
American Planning Association  
<https://www.planning.org/research/postdisaster/>

Does your community need an economic recovery plan?  
International Economic Development Council  
<http://restoreyoureconomy.org/recovery/post-disaster-planning-for-economic-recovery/>

Does your community have a continuity of operations plan?  
Continuity Planning & Templates  
<http://www.fema.gov/planning-templates>

Training for disaster recovery  
Emergency Management Institute  
<http://www.training.fema.gov/emi/>

## National CPCB Coordinator:

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