Disaster Recovery with a Focus on Children and Families

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Administration for Children and Families
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Presentation Objectives

- Share with you the Federal structure on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community following a disaster.

- Utilizing a recent full-scale disaster share and illustrate ACF’s role in recovery.
Experience with recent disaster recovery efforts highlights the need for additional guidance, structure and support to improve how we as a Nation address recovery challenges. The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) is a guide to promote effective recovery, particularly for those incidents that are large-scale or catastrophic.
With the local community in mind the NDRF facilitates effective recovery support to disaster-impacted States, Tribes, Territories and local jurisdictions by establishing a flexible structure that focuses on how best to restore, redevelop and revitalize the health, social, economic, natural and environmental fabric of the community.
The Recovery Support Functions (RSFs) provide a structure to facilitate the identification, coordination and delivery of Federal assistance needed to supplement recovery resources and efforts by local, State and Tribal governments, as well as private and nonprofit sectors.

Each RSF has a coordinating and primary Federal agency and supporting organizations that operate together with local, State, Tribal and Territorial government officials, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners.

The RSFs are:
- Community Planning and Capacity Building
- Economic
- Health and Social Services (H&SS)
- Housing
- Infrastructure Systems
- Natural and Cultural Resources
# Health and Social Services (H&SS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY AGENCIES</th>
<th>Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)</td>
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<td>Department of Education (ED)</td>
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<td>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</td>
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<td>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD)</td>
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<td>Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL)</td>
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<td>Department of the Interior (DOI)</td>
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<td>Department of Justice (DOJ)</td>
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<td>Department of Labor (DOL)</td>
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<td>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</td>
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<th>SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS</th>
<th>Department of Transportation (DOT)</th>
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<td>Department of the Treasury (TREAS)</td>
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<td>Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)</td>
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<td>National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD)</td>
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<td>Small Business Administration (SBA)</td>
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<td>U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)</td>
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Health and Social Services (H&SS)

Lead: HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

Mission: Federal government to support locally-led recovery efforts to restore public health, health care and social services networks to promote the resilience, health and well-being of disaster-affected individuals and communities.

Core Capability: The ability to restore and improve health and social services networks to promote the resilience, health (including behavioral health), independence, and well-being of the whole community.

Core Mission Areas: Health Care Services Impacts, Social Services Impacts, Referral to Social Services/Disaster Case Management, Public health, Behavioral Health Impacts, Environmental Health Impacts, Food Safety and Regulated Medical Products, Animal Health, School Impacts, Long Term Health Issues Specific to Responders
What is ACF & How do we fit?
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- Part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- ACF provides national leadership and creates opportunities for families to lead economically and socially productive lives.
- ACF programs are designed to:
  - help children to develop into healthy adults
  - help communities to become more prosperous and supportive of their members
  - promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities
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Promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. ACF's Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR), in partnership with the ten ACF Regional Offices, provides leadership in human services preparedness, response, and recovery by promoting resilience of individuals, families, and communities prior to, during, and after nationally declared disasters and public health emergencies.
Referral to Social Services
Disaster Case Management

- Implementation of coordinated system(s) for rapid referral to appropriate social services and strategic leveraging of federal social services programs to mitigate social disruption and transition individuals and families back to self-sufficiency.

- Ensuring transition of, HHS/Administration for Children and Families (ACF)- administered and FEMA-funded Disaster Case Management (DCM) Program operations from Emergency Support Function #6 to the HSS RSF for the declared disaster.
In the event of any major disaster ACF provides:

- Situational awareness on human services systems status & disaster-caused unmet needs
- Outreach to Office of Child Care (OCC) & Office of Head Start (OHS) programs and grantees
- Coordination of Federal support for children’s needs
- Immediate Disaster Case Management assessments and services
- Participate in the identification of the “problem set” for federal partners
- Define the landscape of potential need for federal support and engagement across interagency in support of health and social services recovery including new partners coming in to assist in response and recovery
- Focus on establishing structure to support local long-term recovery operations at regional level
- Identify opportunities for building resilience (capacity, mitigation)
Impact of Superstorm Sandy

- **5** HHS/ACF Regions impacted
- **70** ACF staff supported response & recovery
  - **16,000** ACF staff hours
- **3** DCM Assessments conducted
- **697** child care provider closures across CT, NJ & NY at the peak
- **86** Head Start Centers closures across CT, NJ & NY at the peak

Superstorm Sandy was the first large scale event that prompted NDRF implementation.
In the Transition from Response to Recovery

- ACF provides recovery-related technical assistance for Human Services and ACF programs
  - Facilitate Children’s Task Forces
  - Provide support from OCC & OHS for early childhood re-openings
  - Provide support for ACF programs to return to pre disaster state
  - Provide early childhood programs and children issues Subject Matter Expert teams
  - Promote Children’s needs as a Priority
  - Provide linkages to Human Services networks

- ACF provides financial recovery assistance through SSBG, Head Start funding, and the Family Violence Prevention
Take Home

• We can accomplish so much more working together…….Health & Human Services
• Let’s continue to educate each other on our disciplines
• Better use and communication of available tools
• Knowledge of Incident Command
• Sandy provides a teachable moment/ Seize it
• Never become weary in doing good
In Conclusion…

Unlike a disaster event, recovery is a process and may take a very long time. Restoration of Health and Social Services systems following a disaster requires Coordination, Communication and Collaboration among various levels of government, NGOs and impacted communities.
Thank you!

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