

State Plan Guidance on Emergency Preparedness

State Plans are asked to include in their state plans a description of their emergency preparedness and disaster assistance strategies on behalf of the at-risk, vulnerable senior population throughout the state. The description (or plan) should take into account natural and man-made disasters as well as health emergencies such as pandemic flu outbreaks. The emergency preparedness plan may be included as an attachment to the State plan.

The overview should cover:

- The partnership with the State office of emergency management to incorporate the anticipated needs of “at-risk” elderly during an emergency;
- Expectations and responsibility of
 - state staff,
 - area agencies, and
 - service providers
- The need for area agency and service provider staff/plans to interface and integrate planning for the at-risk elderly with State and local planning and service area emergency managers/plans;
- Identification of critical elderly service delivery programs and sites, including: (mapping of service delivery points and possible shelters recommended)
 - Information and assistance
 - Case managers – tracking mechanisms;
 - Vital records – including back-ups and confidentiality concerns;
 - Communication avenues for sharing and receiving information, phone trees, Website information, media, non-English speaking;
 - Congregate and home-delivered programs/meal sites;
 - Senior centers;
 - Transportation resources;
 - Housing facilities such as congregate senior housing, assisted living and nursing home facilities;
 - LTC Ombudsmen;
 - Partnerships with Red Cross, relief organizations, businesses
 - Volunteers;
 - Emergency supplies and sources – food, water, other.
- Periodic practice of emergency procedures along with a schedule for maintaining and updating of plans and training of staff;
- Educating staff/seniors/families about self-responsibility, family plans, to-go kits, prescription medications, insurance, and care of pets.

See the following Older American Act citations for statutory requirements:

306(a)(17) Area Plan Requirements

307(a)(29)-(30) – State Plan Requirements

310(a)(1), (2), and (3) – AoA Disaster Relief Grant Provisions