Preparing for Emergencies Together

The Importance of Community Organizing and Culturally Responsive Resources



Building Strong Partnerships to Prepare for Climate Disasters, Outbreaks, & More – Part 2

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

1 pm PT/ 2 pm MT/ 3 pm CT/ 4 pm ET/ 5 pm AT

Last week…

- What is Emergency Preparedness…
- The importance of building partnership and trust *before* an emergency happens
- Examples from Iowa, North Carolina, and New York City on:
    - Infectious disease outbreaks, and
    - Working with immigrant communities
    - Resources and meetings in language of community

Presenters



Hannah Arnett



Dr. Marysel Págan Santana

Objectives:

- Explain the roles of Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs) and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) in strengthening community emergency preparedness.
- Identify strategies for building cross-sector partnerships, connecting communities to emergency resources, and incorporating community voices into disaster planning and response.
- Apply practical approaches to engage Community Health Workers and increase multicultural community participation in emergency preparedness decisions.

Intro to Community Emergency Preparedness

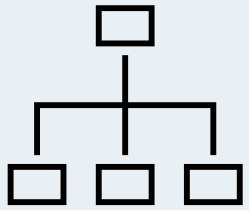






Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response | Community Engagement

NYC Health



Key Concepts

Understanding the Basics

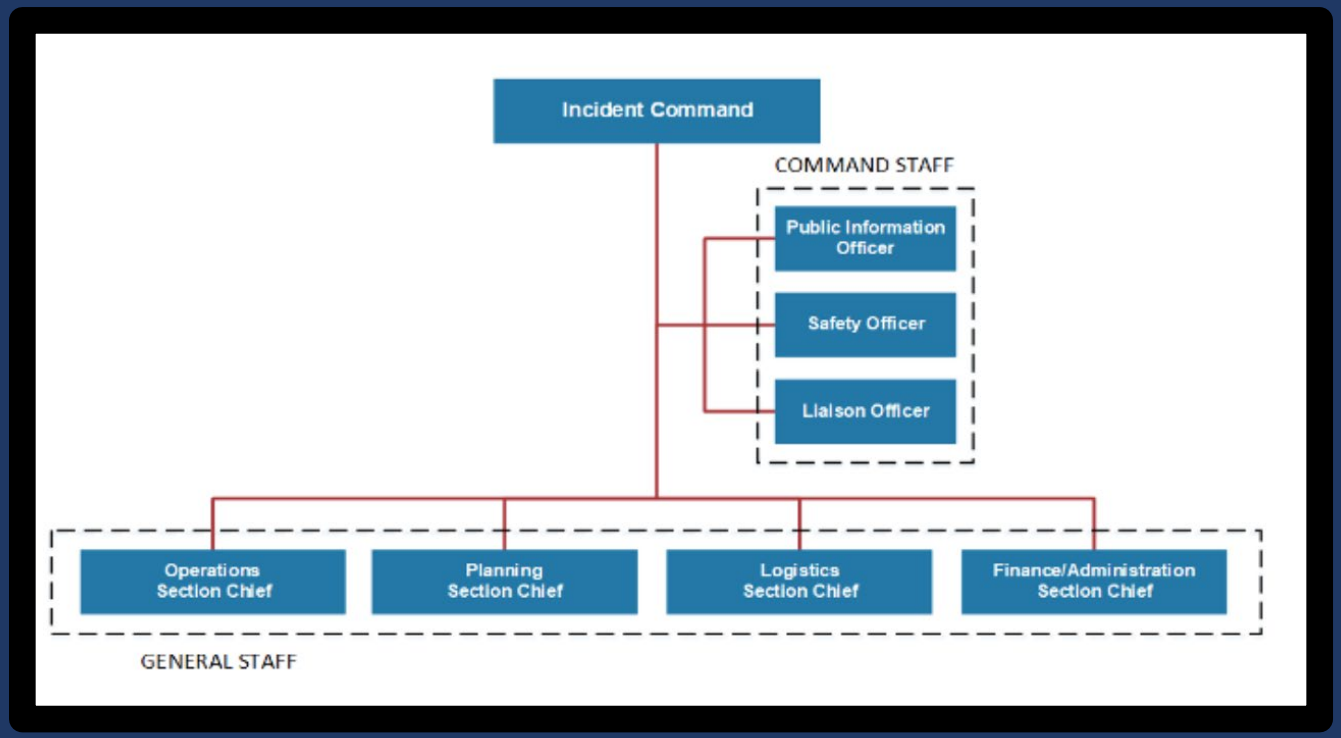
Emergency Life Cycle

Phases of disaster that form a continuous cycle to manage potential hazards and their aftermath.

These phases involve a sequence of activities including preventing or reducing hazards, planning and training for emergencies, taking immediate action during a crisis, and long-term restoration of affected communities.



Emergency Response Organizational Structure



The **Incident Command System (ICS)** is a standardized, emergency management structure that uses a common organizational structure, terminology, and procedures to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management.

It provides an integrated process for managing responses to incidents by coordinating efforts among different agencies and resources, aiming to protect life, property, and the environment.

Whole Community Approach

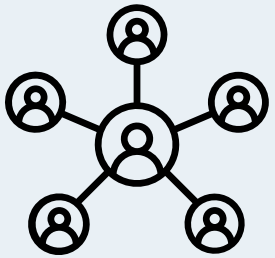
The best strategies in emergency management are collaborative, inclusive, and comprehensive. They actively involve a wide range of partners in planning for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. This includes government officials to businesses, nonprofit organizations, community leaders and individuals.

For example:

Emergency coalitions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-profits, faith-based groups, community leaders and other voluntary entities work together creating networks that provide support to communities in all phases of disaster, alongside government agencies and other partners.

They are called **Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) and Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs)** but COADs sometimes called names like Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) or Community Emergency Network (CEN).





Resources

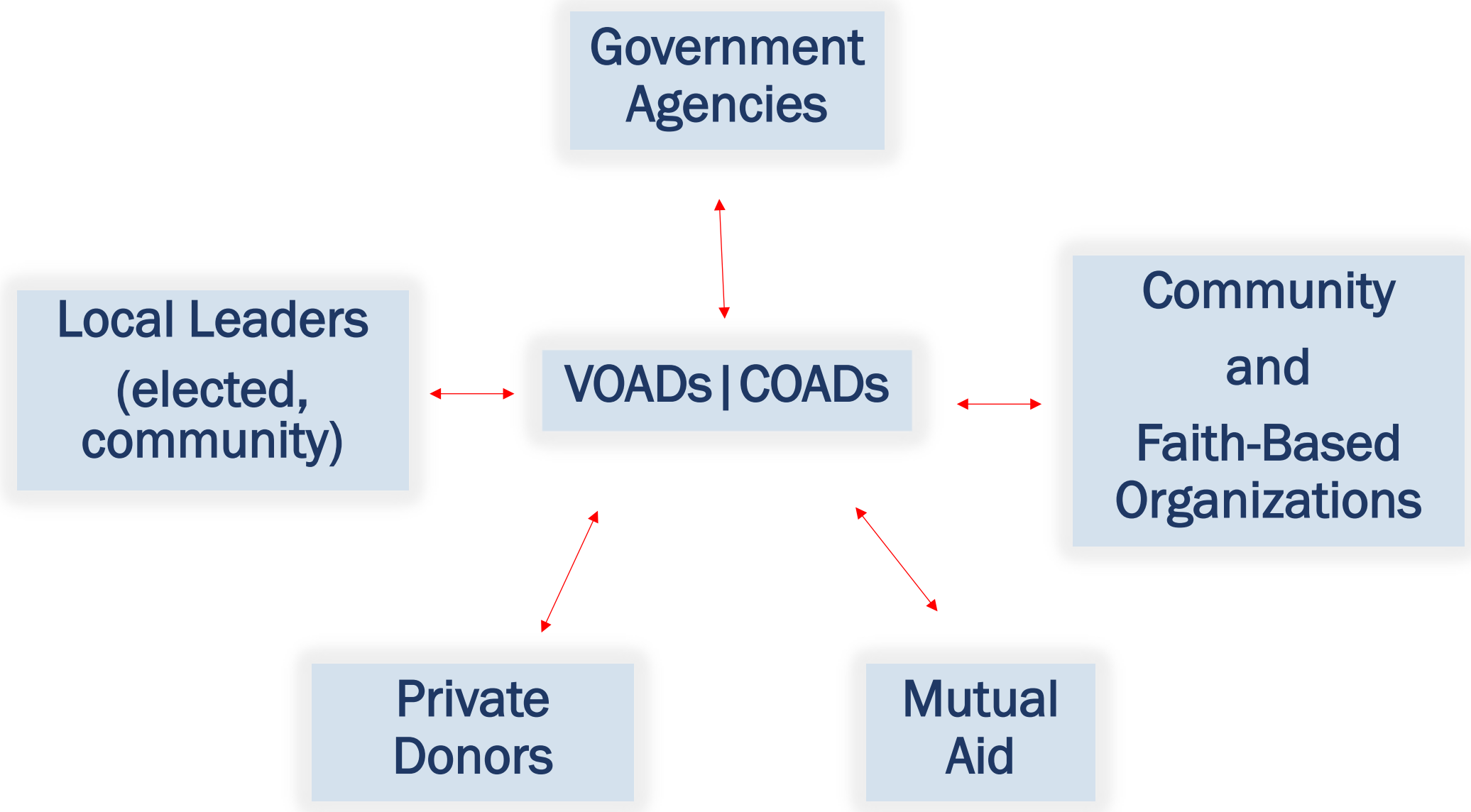
Connecting to Emergency Support

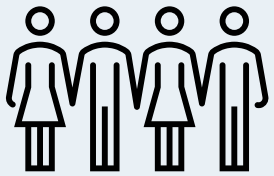


In an emergency, connections are critical!

Key Connections

Community and Faith-Based Organizations	Government Agencies	VOADs|COADs
Local Leaders (gov, elected, community)	Private Donors	Mutual Aid


Government Agencies
Local Leaders (elected, community)
VOADs | COADs
Community and Faith-Based Organizations
Private Donors
Mutual Aid



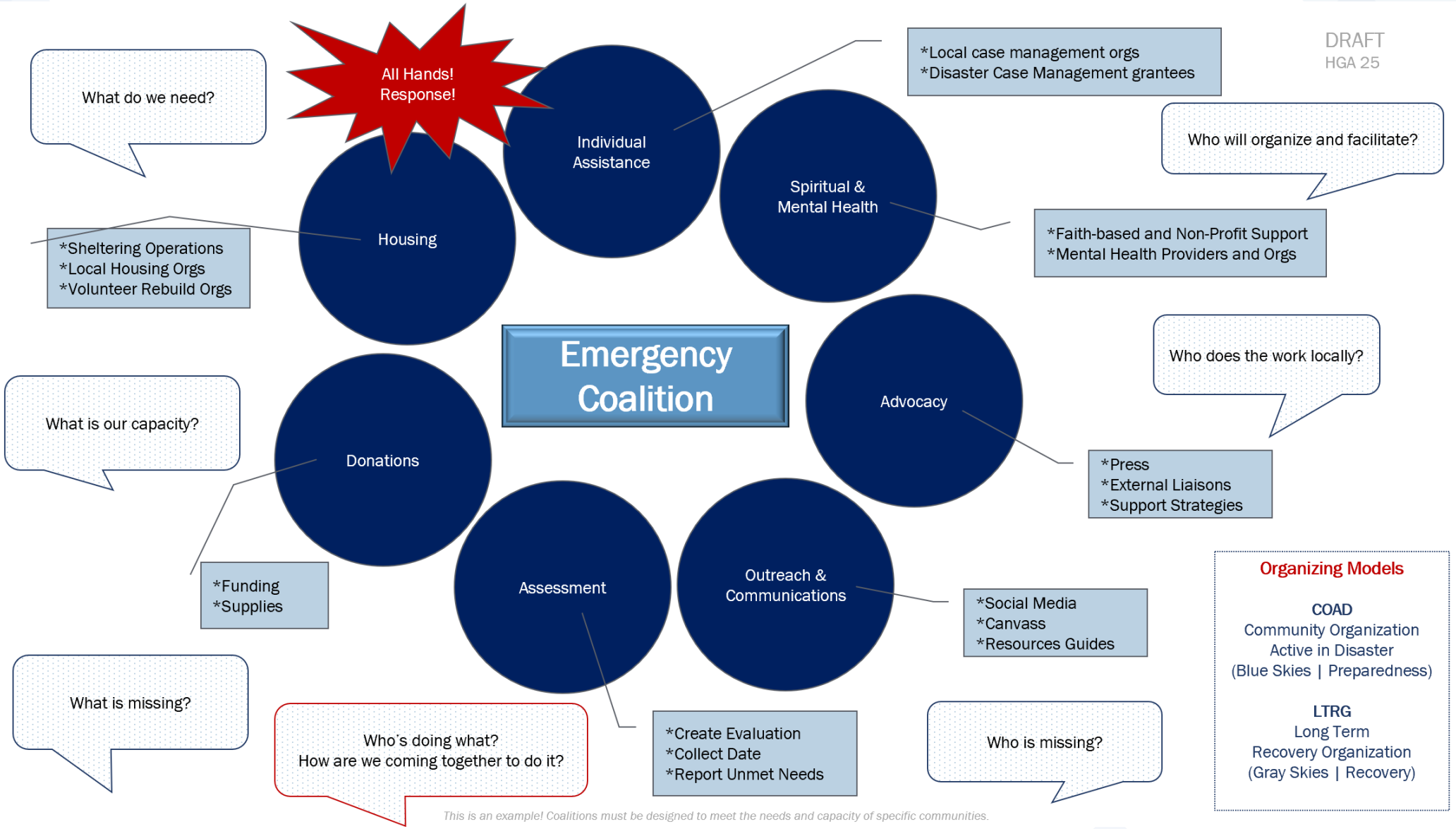
Tools

Organizing an Emergency Support Network

Current Emergencies

What emergencies or threats are impacting your community?

DRAFT
HGA 25



Draft visualization(created by Hannah G. Arnett) for training purposes only. Do not distribute, beyond training participants.

Additional Tools and Resources

National VOAD
VOAD

East Harlem COAD
HOME | EH COAD

Far Rockaway Non-Profit Coalition
Far Rockaway Arverne Nonprofit Coalition - Home

Lower East Side (LES) Ready
LES READY! – Disaster Preparedness and Long Term Recovery Group of the Lower East Side of Manhattan

Southern Brooklyn COAD
Home | Building Community Solutions for a Safer Future | Southern Brooklyn COAD

Staten Island COAD
SI COAD - Nonprofit Staten Island



Reminder

Personal Emergency Planning

Personal Preparedness Tools





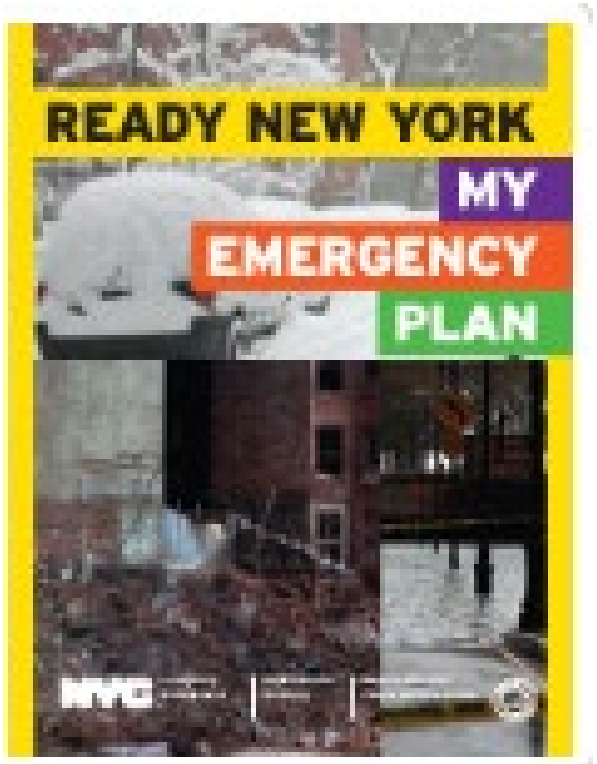


















Notify NYC

Thank you!

Hannah G. Arnett
Community Planning and Capacity Building Lead
NYC Health | Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response



Integrating Communities into Emergency Preparedness

The Dual Role of a Health Center

External

Connecting the communities to goverment support.



Internal

Responding to communities' needs.



Impact on Communities

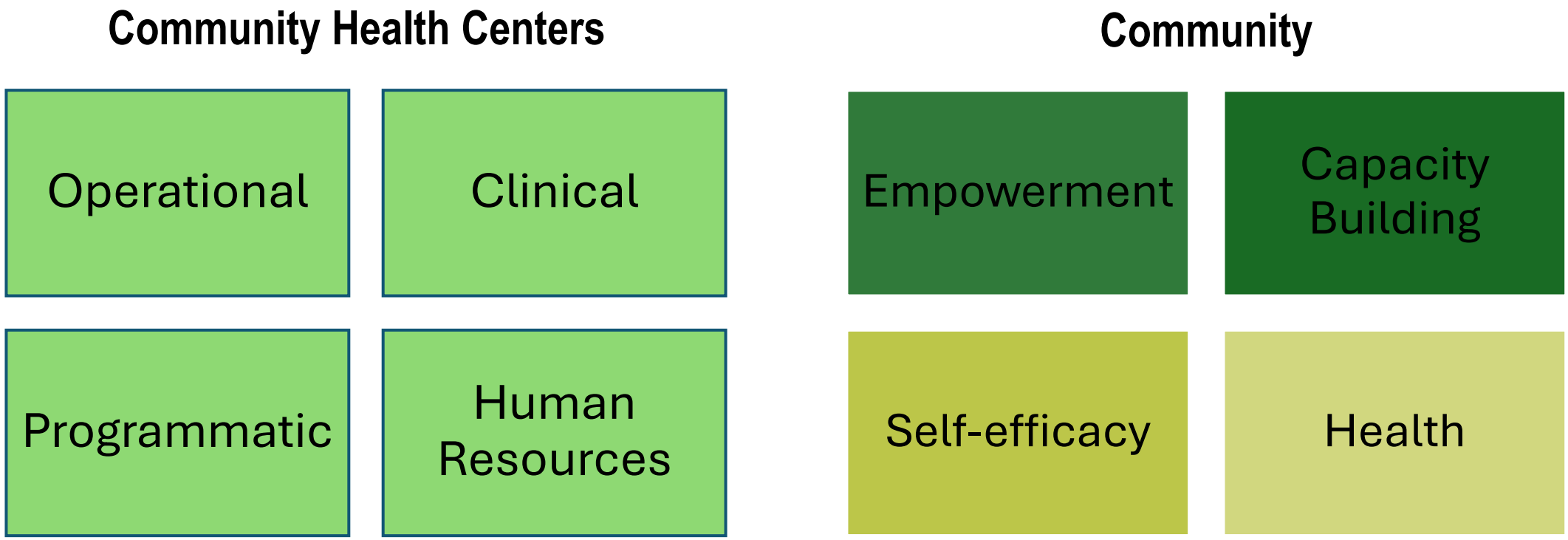
Community strengthening

Capacity building

Self-efficacy



The impact of community mobilization



Role of Clinicians

- Seen as trusted messengers
- Understand healthcare options and connection to care
- Support preventive practices
- Adapt information to the needs of the MSAW community

Talk to your patients and community about...



- Proper chemical storage
  - Secure cabinets
  - Chemical inventory
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Preventing risks at work
- Emergency Plans
  - Care management
  - Mental health

It is NOT...

- Telling people what they need
- Telling people what to do
- Organizing people
- Developing a plan for the community

IT IS ABOUT...

- Asking the community what they need
- Planning together
- Helping communities get organized
- Supporting the community in planning

The Role of CHWs/Promotores

Integration of CHWs as part of the health care team

- Popular education
- Peer education
- Link patients to services



VdS San Bernardino, CA

CHW/Promotores are Members of the Health Care Team

They connect individuals with available resources in their community.

Provide referrals/assistance for:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Assist with applications like
  - Social service programs
  - Free or low-cost medical services



Their Work Improves Health Access

- Patient education
- Training other members of the medical team
- Navigating the healthcare system
- Local partnerships



© AQUA XX!

Field Implementation Tools

- Meetings with authorities
- Community meetings
- Coordination meetings
- Training workshops
- Community forums/focus groups
- Local communication campaigns
- Local planning meetings
- Follow-up meetings
- Disaster preparedness drills
- Emergency plan development/analysis
- Activity documentation
- Identification of key messages
- Participatory community assessment



Promote Improvements in Access to Health Care

- Personalization of health education by incorporating community values and beliefs
- Build networks and coalitions that integrate the voices of their communities



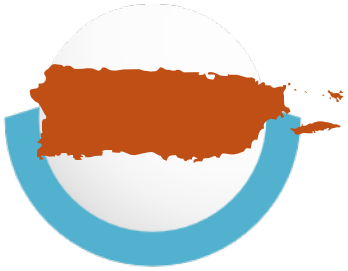
Campesinos sin fronteras

BEST PRACTICES EXAMPLES



California

Farmworkers CARE's Preparedness and Response Efforts



Puerto Rico

Community Mobilization with CHC During Hurricanes



United States

Alianza Nacional para Campesinos and CHWs during COVID-19



Dominican Republic

Integration of the strategy into the national public health system

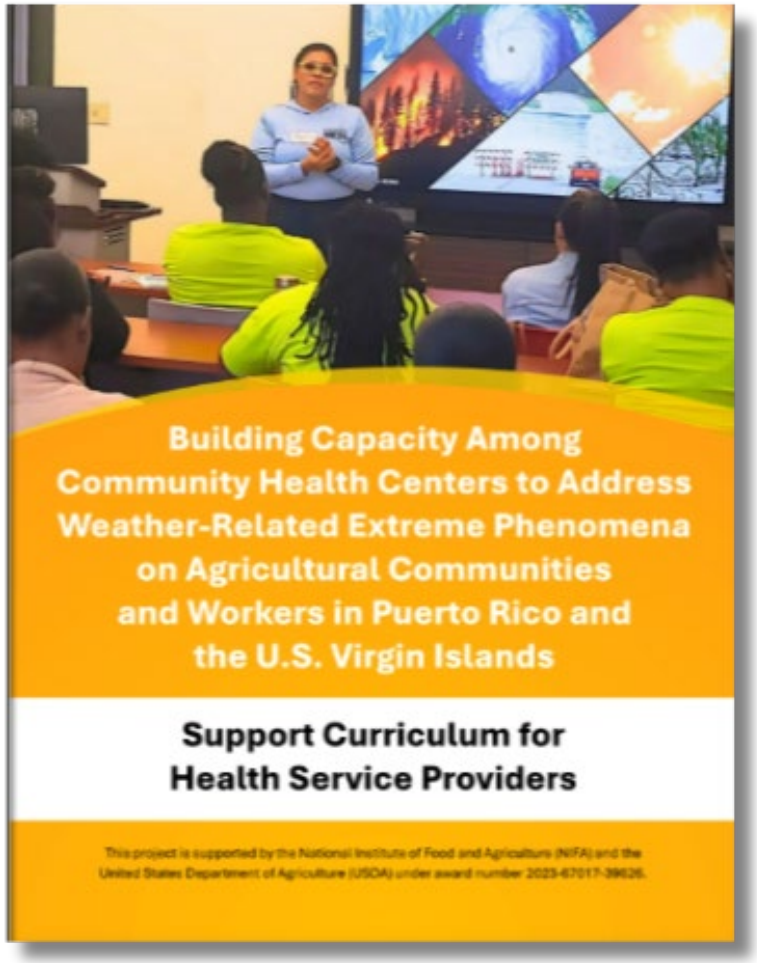
Weather-related Emergencies and Disaster Management - Information Hub

Weather-related Emergencies and Disaster Management Information Hub

MCN continually develops and promotes strategies and resources on weather-related emergencies and disaster management, like hurricanes, floods, wildfires and others, to support health centers, health departments, community groups, and clinicians as they reach out to communities that are often overlooked and give care to patients who might otherwise have nowhere to go. The following resources are part of a project implemented in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands in which MCN created modules contained in a comprehensive curriculum related to weather-related emergencies and disaster management. Below, you will be able to access each module and the paired resources from MCN, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations. Many of the resources are focused on the vulnerable populations that already encounter numerous barriers to health and to care.

Please choose from the modules below for more information and to see or download recommended resources.

1. Weather-related extreme events and phenomena
2. Agriculture in the face of weather-related extreme events and phenomena
3. Community mobilization aimed at mitigating weather-related events
4. Community health in the face of extreme weather-related events and phenomena
5. Occupational health and safety during extreme weather-related events and phenomena
6. Community Leadership and Advocacy to Build Resilient Communities
7. Community Outreach



https://www.migrantclinician.org/weather-related-emergencies-and-disaster-management-information-hub

Questions / Evaluation



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and a lot more at http://www. **www.migrantclinician.org**