

# Washington Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster Resource Directory



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# Adventist Community Services

## Services provided During a Disaster:

In Cooperation with government and voluntary disaster response agencies:

1. Emergency Distribution Centers: Collect, process and distribute groceries, drinking water, blankets, personal comfort items, diapers, cleaning supplies, hand tools, plastic sheeting roofing felt and clothing.
2. Door-to-Door Visitation: Provide information about the full range of disaster relief services and agencies.
3. Listening Posts: Established with interfaith groups of pastors and trained by pastoral workers, to give victims and their families opportunities to ask questions, chat informally, or to request personal prayer.
4. Mass Feeding: By request, ACS volunteers are available to assist other agencies.
5. Disaster Child Care: Trained ACS volunteers in the Cooperative Disaster Child Care program provide temporary day care centers for victims.
6. Loaned Personnel: ACS volunteers are routinely loaned to other disaster agencies to assist in need assessments, family services, healthcare and other areas of need.

## **Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL)**

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), based in Appleton, WI is a fraternal benefit society of 1.8 million Lutherans joined together for insurance, education, and volunteer opportunities. AAL and its national network of more than 10,000 volunteer groups, called "branches", has a rich tradition of pulling together to help during times of disaster. During the past 9 years, AAL and its branches have rallied to raise more than \$19 million for disaster relief efforts across the country.

At the national level, AAL can respond to any disaster, which displaces 5 families from their homes. We provide immediate assistance for basic human needs - shelter, food & clothing. Rather than duplicate the efforts of other organizations already active in the disaster, such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, we provide our assistance through those organizations by reimbursing them for a portion of the money they spent for providing for those basic human needs.

Through our branches we can also do fund raising and provide volunteer services to anyone in need of help on an individual basis.

The primary contact for AAL in Washington State:

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# Airport Chaplaincy

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

1. Supply emergency spiritual support in personal tragedies.  
Make connections with agencies able to offer additional assistance in time of need.
2. We have been noted in the Airport Disaster Preparedness manual since 1980.
3. We are trained in CISM... Disaster Preparedness... Death Notification... Traumatic counseling and support... And, Incident Command...
4. We are the Pastoral Care and Spiritual presence for the Airport on a daily, weekly, and 'on call' basis...
5. We offer Catholic Eucharist, Protestant Services, and Episcopal Eucharist weekly...
6. We are volunteer and interdenominational... Asking no fees for our services...

# American Red Cross

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

The Red Cross provides emergency assistance to evacuees, disaster victims, and emergency workers involved in a disaster or threatened by a disaster. Assistance may be in the form of fixed or mobile feeding, clothing, mass or individual shelter, cleaning supplies, comfort kits, supplementary medical care, or blood and blood products. As soon as families are able to resume living as families rather than in shelters, they are assisted with their verified, urgent needs – rent, beds and bedding, necessary furniture, fuel, cooking and eating utensils, health needs, occupational supplies, transportation and minor home repairs. In providing assistance the Red Cross uses all available resources from the federal, state and local governments and private agencies. Additional recovery assistance may be provided when other resources are not available or are in adequate; such assistance may include repair or rebuilding of homes, replacement of essential contents, or help with other needs.

# Catholic Community Services

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

- a. Housing assistance for low-income families
- b. Counseling programs for children and the elderly
- c. Counseling for disaster caregivers.

# Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee-Disaster Response Services (SRWRC-DRS) will consider written request from the collaborative effort of the faith community in disaster affected areas for:

## **Rapid Response**

In catastrophic disasters, a volunteer clean-up team that is self-contained and has its own equipment.

## **Organizational Capacity Building**

Trained volunteers to work with the community based interfaith organization to help it develop its systems and become operational. This consultation is provided in accordance with our memorandum of understanding with Church Work Service.

## **Needs assessment:**

Trained and supervised volunteer teams conduct door-to-door surveys of long-term recovery needs. The results become the property of the requesting community based interfaith organization as computerized database.

§ This database provides accurate statistics for case management and grant proposal preparation.

§ Forms and limited translation services for Spanish are available.

§ A system for case management can be readily adapted from this database.

## **Estimating**

Trained volunteers are available to determine appropriate materials, skills, and time required for home reconstruction.

## **Reconstruction**

Trained and supervised volunteer teams are able to erect a house from the ground up with the exception of basements, electrical, and plumbing services. Teams size and skill balance will be consistent throughout the duration of the agreement between the interfaith and CRWRC-DRS.

Teams rotate every three weeks. CRWRS-DRS does not supply building materials Cost sharing for volunteer needs varies with specific situation.

## **Community Development**

CRWRC may provide consultation in specific situations for interfaith organizations who have long-term vision for becoming a community development organization.

# Church of the Brethren

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

The Church of the Brethren Emergency Response/Service Ministries has volunteers to provide childcare, debris removal and long-term rebuilding. Trained personnel are available to establish child-care centers and skilled volunteers available for repair and rebuilding following major disasters.

The Church of the Brethren Disaster Response Program has eight guidelines for their programs, as follows:

1. To maintain an organization capable of responding to human needs resulting from natural or man-made disasters, with initiative first from local congregations and districts but with General Board support when a specific disaster is beyond local or district capability.
2. To serve the needs of people regardless of race, creed, or economic status and to concentrate on assistance to the poor, the elderly, and the handicapped for longer-term relief and reconstruction.
3. To recruit volunteers, skilled and unskilled, from our constituency to meet the needs (physical and spiritual) of persons in disaster situations.
4. To provide trained and certified volunteers to care for children impacted by disasters.
5. To provide funds for basic support (food and lodging) of volunteers on the project and to ask volunteers or local congregations to assume any travel expense to and from the project.
6. To continue to develop the capacity to operate our own projects in areas of Brethren population concentration and to always be open to cooperation with other organizations engaged in disaster response.
7. To maintain a working relationship with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other government agencies involved in disaster operations.
8. To plan operations in reconstruction on the basis that all-building materials will be supplied by the person(s) being assisted and to be open to providing grants not to exceed \$1000 in cases of special need.
9. To enable those persons who might be unfavorably affected by legislation or policy to explore sources of funds for clean up or restoration of damaged or lost property.

# Church World Services

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

Helping to organize the interfaith community for effective response, especially during the Recovery Phase. Drawing in funds, volunteers, materials and other resources from the region and nation.

Eight key activities characterize a faith-based community disaster response:

**Needs Assessment** – conducted by Church World Service – Emergency Response Program Partner Christian World Relief Committee-Disaster Response Services (CRWRC-DRS). A comprehensive Case Management process to facilitate and achieve Long Term Recovery.

**Referrals** – Survivors may be referred to other private and public helping Agencies as their needs are matched to appropriate services.

**Education** – Survivors learn about entitlements and how to help themselves.

**Volunteer Coordination** – special attention is addressed to the care and feeding of volunteers including orientation, training and supervision.

**Advocacy** – By acting as an ombudsman for people with special problems, other helping agencies are held accountable for delivery of services.

**Monetary Assistance** – Limited cash assistance can address serious Unmet Needs.

**Pastoral Care** – People with serious personal problems are almost twice as likely to seek assistance from clergy than other counselors.

**Reconstruction** – Facilitate with volunteer skills the repair or complete rebuilding of a personal property primary home impacted by a disaster.

# Lutheran Social Services

## Services provided during a disaster:

1. Consultants.
2. Volunteers.
3. Emergency supplies or funds.
4. Counseling.
5. Facilities, expertise, and resources of Lutheran congregations.

# **Mennonite Disaster Services**

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

1. Assistance to the elderly, disabled, and those in need.
2. Cleanup, repairs, and rebuilds houses.

# Mental Health State of Washington

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

Disaster Outreach Services is a special program name given to approved FEMA Crisis Counseling Program grants in Washington State. The Crisis Counseling Programs are administered through DSHS Mental Health Division but use a name and logo which does not bear an association with mental health agencies. After a Presidential Declaration in which the Individual Assistance Program is granted, the Mental Health Division has 14 days, from the date of the declaration, to submit an application for an Immediate Services Program (ISP). FEMA and the Center for Mental Health Services have a criteria, which needs to be met in order for the application to be approved. Some of the criteria include: documented activities from the mental health system on the local level immediately following the disaster, a clearly defined need that demonstrates its scope exceeds the ability of the state to respond, and a program plan that will appropriately address the needs of the community.

The ISP grant period, if approved, is from the date of the Presidential Declaration forward for 60 days. Depending on the nature and severity of each disaster, a determination is made during the ISP grant period whether or not to apply for the Nine-Month Regular Services Program (RSP) grant.

## **Key Concepts of Disaster Mental Health:**

1. Everyone who sees a disaster (this includes extensive media coverage) is affected by it, and may experience some disaster stress reactions.
2. Disaster survivors are normal people in very abnormal circumstances. Stress reactions that would be excessive at other times are normal now.
3. How people have coped with crises in their past will be a good indicator of how they will handle the disaster. People who were competent and independent prior to the disaster will probably continue to be so after the disaster; people with poor/maladaptive coping skills prior to the disaster will likely have difficulty coping.
4. Most people pull together and function following disaster, but their usual effectiveness is diminished due to the multitude of stressors impacting them, the huge number of tasks to be accomplished, and the diminished cognitive functioning which is a normal stress response (short-term memory loss, difficulty setting priorities, confusion, etc.).
5. Many emotional reactions of disaster survivors (depression, anxiety, anger, helplessness/hopelessness) stem from problems of living brought about by the disaster, rather than poor coping skills. Disaster disrupts housing, employment, transportation, health, family life.
6. Disaster relief procedures have been called the "second disaster." Assistance from government, private/voluntary agencies, insurance companies, and the like involve endless red tape, hassles, delays, and disappointment.

7. Disaster stress reactions may be immediate or delayed.
8. Most people do not see themselves as needing mental health services, and will not seek out help. Outreach to victims is essential. Avoid "mental health" terms and labels. Mental health support and counseling should be "normalized" and treated as a natural part of the disaster response services. Assistance is generally practical in nature. Focus on disaster victims' strengths and potentials and encourage the use of their existing support networks. Be innovative in offering assistance.
9. People may reject disaster assistance of all types. Some reasons include: people are too busy with cleaning up and other concrete demands; pride; initial sense of relief and well-being; altruism ("others are so much worse off"); need to feel in control: don't want to feel they are accepting "welfare;" don't want to use mental health services for fear of being seen as "crazy;" distrust of government (especially in undocumented workers).
10. People respond to active interest and concern, and will usually be eager to talk about what happened to them when approached with warmth and genuine interest.

# Northwest Medical Teams

## Services provided during a disaster:

Northwest Medical Teams, Inc will respond with assistance to disaster victims in providing volunteer services, medical services, goods-in-kind and funding.

- Funding relief is available to assist non-profit organizations who provide direct services to disaster victims. Funding is available after federal, state and insurance resources have been used or denied.
- Volunteer services consist of a medical base of approximately 600 medical personnel and mobile medical/dental clinics. Non-medical volunteer services consist of working with local regional governmental agencies and non profit organizations to:
  - Organization of central goods and services warehouse
  - Coordination of local volunteers
  - Identification of disaster victims and their needs
  - Assistance in clean-up of homes
- Medical supplies and non-medical supplies include; equipment, pharmaceuticals, food, clothing, and clean-up to non-profit organizations directly serving disaster victims.

## Appropriate Referrals:

- Medical Supplies
- Mobile Medical/Dental Supplies
- Goods-In-Kind
- Volunteer Services and Coordination

# Pacific NW React Council

**Services provided during a disaster:**

Provides assistance to the public and authorities through the use of Citizens Band Radio, GMRS, cellular phones, and amateur radio.

# Salvation Army

While each disaster is unique and devastating in its own violent impact on the lives of individuals and communities there are certain basic needs to which The Salvation Army responds. Preparedness, response and recovery programs include, but are not limited to:

**Spiritual Ministry** – Counseling victims, consoling the injured and the distressed, comforting the bereaved, conducting funeral and memorial services, and chaplaincy service to staff and volunteers fulfill the Mission Statement of The Salvation Army.

Ordained Salvation Army officers and lay personnel may conduct religious services for victims and disaster services personnel.

**Counseling** – Individual and family counseling, grief counseling and critical incident stress management for response personnel are provided by ordained Salvation Army officers, trained lay persons and professionally qualified volunteers serving the Salvation Army.

**Identification and registration** – The Salvation Army may be assigned the responsibility of locating, identifying and reporting the status of victims to family, friends and governing bodies.

**Mobile Feeding Program** – Many Salvation Army divisional headquarters and strategically positioned corps centers maintain disaster services vehicles which are designed for on-site meal preparation and delivery. Vehicles, in harmony with cooperative feeding programs, may be stationed locations or may be assigned as mobile units serving multiple sites. Meals and refreshments are provided to victims and disaster services personnel.

**Congregate Feeding Stations** – The Salvation Army may provide congregated meals in Salvation Army facilities or other facilities secured for the program.

**Financial Assistance** – Purchase orders or vouchers to meet immediate needs may be provided to victims of a disaster who is substantiated need. Financial assistance programs are established and maintained in cooperation with other aid programs to avoid duplication of services and to serve the greatest number of people. No repayment of grants is sought or required.

**Shelter** – Shelters may be established and maintained in Salvation Army facilities or other sites. Programs include but are not limited to food, shelter, clothing depot, laundry, and shower facilities.

**Distribution of Basic Commodities** – The Salvation Army may elect to purchase, solicit and distribute commodities not readily available in the time of disaster. These include, but are not limited to, food, water, health and sanitary supplies, baby and childcare products, medicines, and bedding.

**Donated Goods** – The generosity of Americans enable The Salvation Army to solicit and distribute water, non-perishable foods, house-keeping supplies, building materials and other items required for immediate and long term relief.

**Advocacy** – Salvation Army staff and volunteers with expertise and experience in human services are assigned to provide a professional level of assistance including advocacy and referral to private and public assistance programs.

**Recovery and Reconstruction** – The Salvation Army may serve as a lead agency or cooperate in long-term recovery and reconstruction programs.

# Southern Baptist

## Services provided during a disaster:

1. Funding.
2. Mass feeding.
3. Child care.

# St Vincent de Paul

## **Services provided during a disaster:**

Vouchers for food and other goods at stores in each area who agree to accept our vouchers. Also any of the thrift store items available.

## **Service Sites in Washington**

Check with pastors if area Catholic Churches. Many Have an active conference of SVDP.

## **Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy**

Since 1971, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy has continued its mission to provide emotional and spiritual support to people in crisis and those who assist them. Volunteer chaplains from twenty-nine emergency service agencies work cooperatively with three full time chaplains and two staff members to provide comfort and counsel at more than 3,200 crisis incidents each year. Services of chaplains are provided free of charge to victims and their families and to emergency responders and their families. While TPCC's normal focus is on both emergency responders, their families, citizens of Pierce County and their families, during a disaster the chaplains of TPCC will work primarily with the emergency responders and their families. For the citizens of Pierce County there will be other community-based resources available during a disaster.

# United Methodist Committee on Relief

## Services provided during a disaster:

Vehicles, Drivers, Food Preparation, Food distributions, Shelter, Water, Ice  
Counseling (Adult) Counseling (Child), can use donated goods (other than  
clothing), Volunteers, Interpreters, Distribution capability, architectural  
consultants, reconstruction/repair inspection & estimates, volunteer labor; skilled  
and unskilled, clean-up kits and hygiene kits

# World Vision

This page is in the final review process.