

RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION (RSF) 3

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RECOVERY

LEAD AGENCY:

- N.H. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

- N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)
- N.H. Department of Safety, Fire Standards Training & EMS
- N.H. Department of Administrative Services (NHDAS), Bureau of Public Works (DPW)
- N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES)
- N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (Agriculture)
- N.H. Department of Education (Dept. of Ed)
- N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)
- N.H. Department of Administrative Services

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of RSF 3 – Health and Social Services Recovery is to assist locally-led recovery efforts in the restoration of the public health, health care, and social services networks to promote the resilience, health, and well-being of affected individuals and communities.

Scope

The core recovery capability for health and social services is the ability to restore and improve health and social services networks to promote the resilience, health, independence and well-being of the whole community. The Health and Social Services RSF outlines the framework to support locally-led recovery efforts to address public health, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential social service needs. For the purposes of this RSF, the use of the term health will refer to and include public health, behavioral health, and medical services. This RSF establishes a focal point for coordinating recovery efforts specifically for health and social service needs and an operational framework outlining how state agencies plan to support local health and social services recovery efforts.

Objectives

- Restore the capacity and resilience of essential health and social services to meet ongoing and emerging post-disaster community needs.
- Encourage behavioral health systems to meet the behavioral health needs of affected individuals, response and recovery workers, and the community.
- Promote self-sufficiency and continuity of the health and well-being of affected individuals; particularly the needs of children, seniors, people living with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, people from diverse origins, people with limited English proficiency, and underserved populations.
- Assist in the continuity of essential health and social services, including schools.
- Reconnect displaced populations with essential health and social services.

- Protect the health of the population and response and recovery workers from the longer-term effects of a post-disaster environment.
- Promote clear communications and public health messaging to provide accurate, appropriate, and accessible information; ensure information is developed and disseminated in multiple mediums, multi-lingual formats, alternative formats, is age-appropriate and user-friendly and is accessible to underserved populations.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Pre-Disaster

- Support HSEM to identify representatives for the Long-Term Recovery Committee (Recovery Committee) from across the community including, government, NGOs, and private sector for the purpose of guiding the recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination.
- Identify statutory, regulatory and policy issues that contribute to gaps, inconsistencies, and unmet needs in health system recovery.
- Coordinate with *Emergency Support Function (ESF) #3 – Public Works* and *ESF #11 – Agricultural, Cultural and Natural Resources* to assist HSEM in planning for the transition from health and human services response to recovery.
- Collect, store, and protect data concerning current condition of health and social services infrastructure.
- With local Health Care Coalitions, develop strategies to address recovery issues for health, behavioral health, and social services – particularly the needs of response and recovery workers, children, seniors, people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, people from diverse cultural origins, people with limited English proficiency, and underserved populations.
- Coordinate educational and cross-training opportunities with the Department of Safety, Fire Standards Training & EMS, as well as HSEM for key participants in health recovery. Create, encourage, and participate in disaster recovery exercises to enhance skills and develop needed techniques.
- With the support of local communities, HSEM, and other State partners, integrate health-related mitigation, recovery, and other pre-disaster plans and activities into existing local and Statewide community-wide planning and development activities, Leverage Public Health Networks and Healthcare Coalitions.

Post-Disaster

- With local Public Health Networks and Health Care Coalitions, conduct health and social services damage and needs assessments. Provide technical assistance in the form of impact analyses and support recovery planning of public health, health care, and human services infrastructure.
- Based on identified damage and needs, coordinate with HSEM to develop a disaster-specific, interagency Health and Social Services Disaster Recovery Support Strategy.
- Undertake those initiatives identified in the disaster-specific Health and Social Services Recovery Support Strategy and work to facilitate the transition to steady state operations. Coordinate with DES, DOT, DRED, Dept. of Ed, and Agriculture, as needed.
- Coordinate and leverage applicable federal resources for health and social services.
- Coordinate with HSEM to establish mechanisms for tracking recovery progress.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

Pre-Disaster

- Identify representatives for the Recovery Committee from across the community, including government, NGOs, and private sector for the purpose of guiding the recovery process and establishing leadership and coordination.
- With DHHS and ESF #6 – Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services and ESF #8 – Health and Medical, plan for the transition from response to recovery.

Post-Disaster

- Coordinate with DHHS to develop a disaster-specific, interagency Health and Social Services Disaster Recovery Support Strategy based on damage and needs assessments.
- Maintain situational awareness to identify and mitigate potential recovery obstacles during the response phase.
- Maintain robust and accessible communications throughout the recovery process among local, State, and federal governments, and all other partners, to ensure ongoing dialogue and information sharing.
- Coordinate with DHHS to establish mechanisms for tracking recovery progress.
- Reinforce the importance of post-disaster compliance with existing privacy and civil rights laws, policies, and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Department of Safety, Fire Standards Training & EMS

Pre-Disaster

- With DHHS and HSEM, coordinate and promote education and cross-training opportunities for key participants in health and social services recovery, but not limited to:
 - Emergency Managers
 - N.H. Public Health Networks
 - EMS
 - Hospitals
 - Non Profit and Private Sector Partners
- Coordinate with HSEM on training and exercise requirements and implement annual exercises.

Department of Environmental Services (DES)

Pre-Disaster

- Promote the principles of sustainability and resilience into preparedness and operational plans.

Post-Disaster

- Assist DHHS in the provision of technical assistance and undertaking the initiatives identified in the incident-specific Health and Social Services Recovery Support Strategy that relate to air and water quality issues, if required.

Department of Administrative Services, Bureau of Public Works

Post-Disaster

- Assist DHHS in the provision of technical assistance and undertaking the initiatives identified in the disaster-specific Health and Social Services Recovery Support Strategy that relate to hospitals and healthcare facilities, if required.

N.H. Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food (Agriculture)

Post-Disaster

- Assist DHHS in the provision of technical assistance and undertaking the initiatives identified in the disaster-specific Health and Social Services Recovery Support Strategy that relate to food and food safety, if required.

N.H. Department of Education (Dept. of Ed)

Post-Disaster

- Coordinate with DHHS closing of local/regional shelters housed in schools and other facilities to enable families to return to normal functions of school and work.

N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)

Post-Disaster

- Assist DHHS in the provision of technical assistance and undertaking the initiatives identified in the disaster-specific Health and Social Services Recovery Support Strategy that relate to private industry, if required.

Department of Administrative Services

Pre-Disaster

- In coordination with *Emergency Support Function (ESF) #7 – Resource Support*, identify and establish agreements with recovery contractors that may be needed to support health and social services recovery. Coordinate with DHHS to properly procure through a full, fair, and open competitive process stand-by contracts with disaster recovery contractors, if needed.

Post-Disaster

- With DHHS and HSEM, review and implement new post-disaster budget and project approval processes to issue orders as appropriate, to implement changes to rules and regulations for the post-disaster recovery. This should include the implementation of disaster specific budget codes that will make it easy to track disaster related expenditures and increase reimbursement.

DEVELOPMENT, MAINTENANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Development, maintenance, and implementation of this RSF will be as outlined in the base Recovery Plan.

AUTHORITIES

Refer to Authorities listed in Chapter 1 of the base Recovery Plan.

REFERENCES

In addition to those listed in the base Recovery Plan, the following references are pertinent this RSF Annex.

- Public Health Network and Healthcare Coalition Plans