Preparing to Lead in Local Disaster Recovery

Understanding Your Role in Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning

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Steps to Building Recovery Resilience

• **Step 1: Organization**
  • The first failure or success point and the key to a sustainable, long-term process.

• **Step 2. Recovery Planning**
  • Whole community representation
  • Identify objectives
  • Prioritize

• **Step 3. Managing Recovery**
  • Dealing with changes
  • What is meant by “long term”

• **Sector/Function Specific Recovery**
  • Economic, Housing, Cultural, Natural, Health, Infrastructure, Government
Successful Community Recovery in Action

• Case Study: Joplin, MO
• Case Study: Broadmoor, New Orleans
Secure Your Own Mask First...

- Identify your role in the community and in a potential recovery.
- Complete continuity planning – the first recovery plan!
- Update insurance policies.
- Develop partnerships with other governments and national organizations.
- Participate in existing processes.
  - many mandatory plans require a public outreach component and can be used to pre-plan for a more resilient recovery.
Preparing a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

• Levels of Effort – Basic:
  • Build a post-disaster recovery stakeholder structure.
  • Build relationships with other governments, national voluntary organizations.
  • Identify who will lead recovery in your community.
  • Develop recovery awareness within the community and discuss assumptions about recovery with elected representatives and other officials.
Preparing a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

• Levels of Effort - Intermediate
  • Formalize relationships with other governments; national and regional voluntary organizations.
  • Start a Community Organizations Active in Disasters group.
  • Build resilience concepts in existing planning processes.
  • Expand relationships between local governments and community groups.
Preparing a Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

• Levels of Effort - Advanced:
  • Adopt a recovery plan or recovery ordinance.
    • Rebuilding policies and procedures
    • Developing advanced contracts and mutual aid
    • Training and exercises for government and residents
    • Review and maintain the plan
  • Build recovery into other local plans (comprehensive, land use, mitigation)
  • Request recovery training from your state emergency management agency.
  • Create a rainy day fund for disaster recovery or mitigation purposes.
  • Start the conversation about how you will prioritize after specific incidents.
    • Be aware: this is politically difficult (consider the New Orleans Lower 9th Ward case).
More Information

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• EMD Disaster Recovery Resource Page
  • http://mil.wa.gov/recovery
Day 2
Key Concepts and Workshop
Critical Concepts

• Preconditions for Recovery
  • Utilities, community will, leadership

• Individual decisions define recovery, we work to influence those decisions.
  • Decentralized planning with simultaneous efforts are historically most effective.

• Media visibility brings resources.

• Business recovery leads to community stability.

• Pre-existing relationships between jurisdictions lead to successful recovery of government functions.

• Leverage ongoing or existing plans to plan for recovery, both before and after a disaster.
Pillars of a Successful, Community-Driven Process

• Community involvement exists beyond the project team into planning and in plan implementation.
• There is a structured process that intentionally brings together the whole community.
• Residents drive to what they want their community to be like.
• Set realistic expectations.
• Keep people living in the area.
• Don’t wait for the state/city/feds to save your community.
Who Funds Recovery?

- FEMA
- HBUD
- SBA
- US DOT
- USDA
- EDA
- Insurance
- Private businesses
- Philanthropic organizations
Sample Timeline: Public Assistance Program

- Declaration Request to FEMA
- Requests for PA Funding Due
- Kickoff meeting
- Damage Reports to FEMA
- Complete Emergency Work
- Complete Permanent Repairs

All dates are approximate.
Exercise 1 – Timeline of Partnerships

• What needs to happen in order to recover?
  • What is the timeline for each action?
• Who are the partners that make this possible?
• Where are the chokepoints – places where multiple processes converge and compete for resources?
Building a Long-Term Recovery Program

1. Assessing the need
2. Selecting an overall leader and outlining a program
3. Secure outside support
4. Establish public information campaign
5. Reach consensus on the vision for the community and get buy-in to move forward
6. Identify the issues and opportunities
7. Articulate vision and set goals
8. Identify and prioritize projects
9. Develop a plan
10. Choose project champions
11. Prepare a funding strategy
12. Implement the plan
13. Update the plan
Exercise 2 – The Local Process

• This is an alternative way of viewing the local recovery planning process.

• The focus distills FEMA’s 13 points and focuses on neighborhood actions.

• Challenge: in groups, develop your own recovery process maps. Feel free to use FEMA’s 13 steps or Broadmoor’s 5 phases.
Final Discussion Question

• When should you derail a planning process?

• When should you check your objections and allow a process to continue (albeit an imperfect one)?
Thank You!

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