**Children & Youth in Disaster – Subject Matter Expert Support**

**Summary:**

The HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) can deploy a Subject Matter Expert in the needs of children and youth in disasters to a FEMA Joint Field Office or other setting to provide planning support to Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and local partners on the needs of children and youth, and on the social services systems and programs that serve children, youth, and families.

**Detailed Information:**

ACF can deploy a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in the post-disaster needs of children and youth and in the human services and early childhood programs that support children, youth, and families. Deployable SMEs can support Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and local interagency efforts to include the needs of children and youth into response and recovery planning and operations.

SMEs are typically either ACF Regional Emergency Management Specialists (REMS), staff from ACF’s [Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR)](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr), or disaster-trained program specialists from ACF programs serving children.

Children & Youth SMEs provide expertise in:

* Child care, including recovery of child care provider services in affected communities
* Head Start
* Child welfare and child protective services
* Post-disaster reunification of children
* Runaway and Homeless Youth programs
* Foster care and Transitioning Foster Youth

Additionally, Children & Youth SMEs can support State, Tribal, or Territorial government efforts to convene a Children & Youth Task Force for the disaster. For more information on the Children & Youth Task Force model, see <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ohsepr/childrens_task_force_development_web.pdf>

Children & Youth SMEs can be requested from HHS through Pre-Scripted Mission Assignment (PSMA) 233. More information on this and other deployable capabilities of ACF can be obtained from OHSEPR by writing the ACF Watch Desk at [hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov).