

Administration for Children and Families: Children and Youth Needs Subject Matter Expert

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The HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) can deploy a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in 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.

The Children and Youth SMEs are typically ACF Regional Emergency Management Specialists (REMS), ACF's Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) staff, or disaster-trained program specialists from ACF specific programs serving children.

Within the role and scope of ACF, 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 (can have limitations within the scope of ACF programs)
- Runaway and Homeless Youth programs
- Foster care and Transitioning Foster Youth

The ***Post-Disaster Child Care Needs and Resources*** matrix document is designed to identify needs, challenges & gaps that can adversely affect families & providers post disaster. The Post-Disaster Child Care Needs and Resources matrix is online at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resources> . The matrix catalogues governmental and non-governmental resources for families in need of child care, and for child care providers (centers, in-home, and family child care providers) and communities.

Implemented **pre-disaster** for planning at State level

- Identify the resources within a State that address child care needs of families and providers (centers, in-home, and family child care providers)

Implemented **post- disaster** response & recovery:

- Resource types available to support families, States, child care providers, and communities
- Policy & guidance provided
- Triggered in presidentially-declared disaster or public health emergency

Children & Youth SMEs can support State, Tribal, or Territorial government efforts to convene a **Children & Youth Task Force** in disaster or public health emergency. For more information on the Children & Youth Task Force model, see the ***Children and Youth Task Forces in Disaster: Guidelines for Development*** document on the web at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/children-and-youth-task-force-in-disasters> and the ***New York Children's Issues Task Force Report: Lessons Learned from Response and Recovery in Superstorm Sandy*** document available online at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/new-york-task-force>.

For more information on this and other ACF human services capabilities to support States, Tribes, and Territories in preparedness, response, and recovery, contact OHSEPR by emailing the ACF Watch Desk at hswatchofficer@acf.hhs.gov