

Recovery – Coordination of the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function

The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) established the Health and Social Services (H&SS) Recovery Support Function (RSF) to assist locally-led recovery efforts to restore or improve disaster-impacted public health, health care and social services capabilities and networks. Health and social services recovery promotes resilience, health and well-being of affected individuals and communities.

The Division of Recovery, on behalf of HHS/ASPR, coordinates the H&SS RSF by working closely with FEMA and 14 federal departments, the American Red Cross, and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). Recovery's Division Director serves as the H&SS RSF National Coordinator and the staff serve as H&SS RSF Field Coordinators during recovery deployments. During steady state the Recovery Division staff, who are civilians and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers, align with Regional Emergency Coordinators, Hospital Preparedness Program project officers, and other ASPR and HHS Regional representatives to support pre-disaster recovery planning and capacity building at the health care coalition, State, Tribal, Territorial, and regional levels.

ASPR OEM advances the Nation's ability to recover from the health and social services impacts of emergencies and disasters by providing training and technical assistance to State, Tribal, and Territorial authorities, federal partners and nongovernmental stakeholders.

Pre-disaster, the Division assists in developing strategies to identify, mitigate, or resolve recovery gaps in health care, behavioral health, and social services access or capabilities. The federal doctrine for Recovery identifies nine core mission areas for the H&SS RSF:

- Public Health;
- Health Care Services Impacts;
- Behavioral Health Impacts;
- Environmental Health Impacts;
- Social Services Impacts;
- Referral to Social Services / Disaster Case Management;
- Food, Drug, and Regulated Medical Product Safety;
- Long-Term Impacts to First Responders; and
- Schools and Children in Disaster.

Post-disaster, when the H&SS RSF is activated, H&SS RSF Field Coordinators coordinate federal health and social services recovery operations in support of State, Tribal, Territorial, and local government-identified recovery needs and priorities. By coordinating with local and State (Tribal, or Territorial) stakeholders, and both HHS and other federal partners, the H&SS RSF Field Coordinator works in the affected area to conduct mission scoping assessments and develop Recovery Support Strategies to meet the State's health and social services recovery needs. The H&SS RSF National and Field Coordinators work closely with and support the NDRF's five other Recovery Support Functions: Community Planning + Capacity Building, Economic, Housing, Natural and Cultural Resources and Infrastructure Systems RSFs.

For additional information, contact Disaster.Recovery@hhs.gov.

Last Updated: July 29, 2016