Mississippi State Department of Health

Office of Emergency Planning and Response

Robert T. Boxx

Planning Section Chief

OEPR At Risk Activities

HHS emPOWER Program

Whole Community

At Risk

Who are individuals "At Risk"?

"At-risk individuals are people with access and functional needs that may interfere with their ability to access or receive medical care before, during, or after a disaster or emergency."

Irrespective of specific diagnosis, status, or label, the term access and functional needs is used to describe a broad set of common and crosscutting access and functional needs.

At Risk

Access-based needs: All people must have access to certain resources, such as social services, accommodations, information, transportation, medications to maintain health, and so on.

Function-based needs: Function-based needs refer to restrictions or limitations an individual may have that requires assistance before, during, and/or after a disaster or public health emergency.

At Risk

Children

Pregnant Women

Older Adults

Individuals with Disabilities

Others in a PHE as determined by the Director of HHS.

Individuals from diverse cultures

At Risk

Individuals with limited English proficiency, non-English speakers

Individuals who are transportation disadvantaged

Individuals experiencing homelessness

Individuals who have chronic health conditions

Individuals who have pharmacological dependency

At Risk

Past OEPR At Risk Activities

- At Risk Task Force
- Identify At-Risk groups and POCs
- Meet twice a year
- Review response plans
- Review messaging w/Communications
    - Contract with SMEs
    - Emergency preparedness forums

At Risk

Future OEPR At Risk Activities
    Identify At-Risk groups and POCs
    Develop Coalitions
    Facilitate meetings
        North
        Central
        South
    Work w/Health Equity and other programs
    Review response plans
    Review messaging w/Communications
    SMEs provide specific preparedness trainings
    Engage during incident responses

At Risk

Questions / Comments?

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HHS emPOWER Program

Partnership

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

HHS emPOWER Program

The HHS emPOWER Map gives every public health official, emergency manager, healthcare coalition and provider, first responder, electric company, and community members across the nation the power to discover the electricity-dependent Medicare population total in their state, territory, county, and ZIP Code.

HHS emPOWER Program

Provides

Federal Data

Mapping

AI Tools

Training

HHS emPOWER Program

To help communities **protect the health of at-risk Medicare beneficiaries,** including individuals who live independently and rely on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment and devices, and or essential health care services.

HHS emPOWER Program

Initially included at-risk population data for those who relied on life-maintaining electricity-dependent DME

Expanded to health care services, that include
- Outpatient facility-based dialysis
- Home oxygen tank services
- Home health care services
- Home hospice care services

HHS emPOWER Program

Mississippi Medicare Data Totals

Total Beneficiaries – 616,727

Total Electricity-Dependent Beneficiaries – 39,264

Hinds County

Total Beneficiaries – 43,460

Total Electricity-Dependent Beneficiaries – 1,876

HHS emPOWER Program

In the event of an incident, emergency, or disaster, an authorized **state** public health authority may submit an official request for the restricted and secure HHS emPOWER Emergency Response Outreach Dataset to conduct life-saving assistance and response outreach public health activities.

HHS emPOWER Program

HHS emPOWER Program

https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/

HHS emPOWER Program

Questions / Comments?

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Whole Community

"Whole Community"

Involving people in the development of preparedness documents.

Ensuring their roles and responsibilities are reflected in the content of the materials.

Whole Community

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Whole Community

Benefits Include

Shared understanding of community needs and capabilities

Greater empowerment and integration of resources from across the community

Stronger social infrastructure

Whole Community

Benefits Include Cont.

Establishment of relationships that facilitate more effective prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities

Increased individual and collective preparedness

Greater resiliency at all levels: the community, state, regional and national levels

Whole Community

Whole Community Principles:

Understand and meet the actual needs of the whole community.

Engage and empower all parts of the community.

Strengthen what works well in communities on a daily basis.

Whole Community

Whole Community Strategic Themes:

Understand community complexity.

Recognize community capabilities and needs.

Foster relationships with community leaders.

Whole Community

Whole Community Strategic Themes: Cont.

Build and maintain partnerships.

Empower local action.

Leverage and strengthen social infrastructure, networks, and assets.

Whole Community

Partners to Consider Engaging

- Community councils
- Volunteer organizations (e.g., local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Community Emergency Response Team programs, volunteer centers, State and County Animal Response Teams, etc.)
- Faith-based organizations
- Individual citizens
- Community leaders (e.g., representatives from specific segments of the community, including seniors, minority populations, and non-English speakers)
- Disability services
- School boards
- Higher education institutions
- Local Cooperative Extension System offices

Whole Community

Partners to Consider Engaging Cont.

- Animal control agencies and animal welfare organizations
- Surplus stores
- Hardware stores
- Big-box stores
- Small, local retailers
- Supply chain components, such as manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, and logistics providers
- Home care services
- Medical facilities
- Government agencies (all levels and disciplines)
- Embassies

Whole Community

Partners to Consider Engaging Cont.

- Local Planning Councils (e.g., Citizen Corps Councils, Local Emergency Planning Committees)
- Chambers of commerce
- Nonprofit organizations
- Advocacy groups
- Media outlets
- Airports
- Public transportation systems
- Utility providers
- And many others

Whole Community

Relationships trump plans

Whole Community

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