

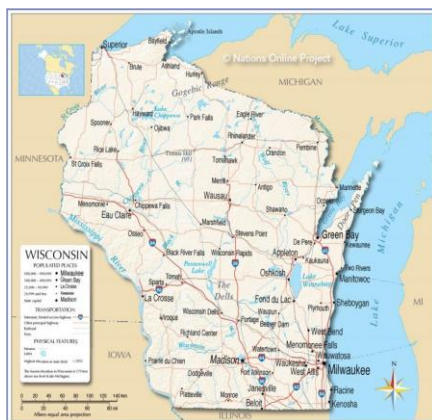
FAST IN WISCONSIN

Part of “FAST Across the Nation” ADA Webinar Series
October 12, 2017



Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health

PROFILE



- 5.71 million people
- 72 counties
- 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations
- Mixture of urban and rural
- Home Rule State

HOME RULE STATE



Safety and well-being of every resident is the responsibility of the senior elected official at the lowest level of government impacted by a disaster.

- Manage the incident using their own resources or partners.
- Coordinate evacuation and shelter of people with access or functional needs.
- Determine need to declare a local state of emergency.
- Coordinate through the county emergency management with state partners when state and federal resources are needed.

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FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE TEAMS



The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) leads a statewide initiative to identify, recruit, and train state, regional, and local Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST).

Following national and local disasters, it is clear that preparation, planning, and response to support people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs continues to need improvement.

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PARTNERS



- American Red Cross (ARC)
- Milwaukee County Emergency Management
- Waukesha Health & Human Services Department
- Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium
- Wisconsin Association of the Deaf (WAD)
- Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM)
- Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

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WHAT IS FAST?



- A trained team of state, county, tribal, non-governmental organizations, and volunteer personnel that deploy to a disaster area and support people with access and functional needs in community shelters or reception centers.
- The team identifies and requests resources needed by people to maintain their independence while displaced from their homes.

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WHY?



- To strengthen a whole community's disaster resilience
- To reduce impact on medical support resources
- To allow people the ability to stay with friends and family in the same shelter
- To support FEMA's Functional Needs Support Services Guidance (FNSS)
- To identify and strengthen community partnering

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EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE



- Cognitive and Developmental Disabilities
- Behavioral Health
- Vision Loss and/or Impairment
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Children and Adults
- Physical Disabilities
- Chronic Health Conditions (including chemical sensitivities)
- Local Community
 - Team members understand the languages and cultures of their communities and know where to get resources

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TEAM MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS



- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of people who have:
 - access and functional needs, people with
 - activity limitations
 - or may be older
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Ability to interact with a variety of staff, volunteers, and members of the community
- Have two years of direct work experience in assessing the needs of people with access and functional needs

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DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS



- Community Shelters and Reception Centers
- May expand to:
 - Support larger scale points of dispensing health settings
 - Help the local elected official identify other needed county resources
 - Assist with door to door canvassing/outreach

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CHALLENGES



- Involve human services in emergency planning and response
- Remember that FAST is only one resource
- Keep training and member engagement relevant
- Inject access and functional needs scenarios in exercises
- Determine how to deploy FAST on weekends/overnight
- Engage more partners
- Increase number of local teams
- Increase state and regional team support

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED



- Since 2013, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), Department of Health Services (DHS), Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC), American Red Cross (ARC), and Wisconsin Association for the Deaf (WAD) have provided FAST training.

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED



- During the floods in July 2017, Red Cross opened 10 community shelters—the most community shelters opened since the floods of 2008.
- Large apartment fires continue to negatively impact people with access and functional needs throughout Wisconsin.

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HOW PREPARED ARE WE?



Not as ready as we should be or could be.

- Started quarterly FAST conference calls
- Created FAST refresher training
 - Fill the training gap
 - Remind people of the access and functional needs support services resources that exist
 - Encourage sharing and collaboration
 - Keep a spotlight on access and functional needs resources and needs

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LOCAL TEAMS*



- Calumet
- Waukesha
- Brown
- Washburn
- Portage
- Dodge
- Ozaukee/Washington
- Milwaukee

*In varying stages of development

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LOCAL TEAM DECISIONS



- FAST member qualifications
- Type of deployment setting options
- Response areas, i.e., within or outside county
- What teams can and can't do
- Who will be team leader or coordinator
- How alerting and notification protocol occurs

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REGIONAL TEAMS



- Members are assigned by State FAST Coordinator.
- All completed FAST training and have key skills needed in a response.
- Credentials are verified within Wisconsin Emergency Assistance Volunteer Registry or WEAVR.
- Background checks are done and vests provided prior to deployment.
- Based on needed skills, might deploy as a full or partial team

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REGIONAL TEAMS



- Caches or go-kits will be located in each region
 - Include forms, vests, badges, contact lists, lists of regional assets, American Red Cross/Salvation Army contact info
- Regional team leader will be a “regional champion”
 - Meet core training and skills
 - May serve as liaison to local Emergency Operations Center to support Human Services Branch Director

Gap: Need regional team leaders and more members in some of the regions

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HOW DOES FAST WORK TODAY?



- Ensure that local FAST contact information and notification procedures are embedded in local plans and procedures
- Know how to reach out to access resources in the next county, the region, the state, or federal partners

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NEXT STEPS



- Talk with partners to discuss the future of FAST in Wisconsin
- Recruit regional team leaders to help define role and relevant policies and procedures
- Talk with more state agencies
- Work out alert and notification flows
- Relook at training requirements
- Get caches defined and located

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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