

Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Who we are and how we serve.



Meet Our Presenters

FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC)

- Linda Mastandrea – Director
- Ed Ahern – Disability Integration Advisor – Individual Assistance Detail
- Arthur Craig – Program and Policy Branch Chief
- Jessica Gottesman – Data Analytics Program Analyst
- Candice Alder – Programmatic Inclusivity – Public Assistance Program Analyst
- John Daly – Special Advisor to the Associate Administrator – Office of Response and Recovery



Presentation Summary

- FEMA: Mission & Strategic Plan
- ODIC: Role & Strategic Plan
 - Current Program and Policy Initiatives
 - Individual Assistance
 - Disaster Recovery Reform Act
 - Data Analysis
 - Public Assistance
 - Office of Response and Recovery
- Recap



FEMA: Mission & Strategic Plan

Linda Mastandrea – Director



FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.



FEMA Strategic Plan

- **Build a Culture of Preparedness**
 - Every segment of our society, from individual to government, industry to philanthropy, must be encouraged and empowered with the information it needs to prepare for the inevitable impacts of future disasters.
- **Ready the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters**
 - FEMA will work with its partners across all levels of government to strengthen partnerships and access new sources of scalable capabilities to quickly meet the needs of overwhelming incidents.
- **Reduce the Complexity of FEMA**
 - FEMA must continue to be responsible stewards of the resources we are entrusted to administer. We must also do everything that we can to leverage data to drive decision-making, and reduce the administrative and bureaucratic burdens that impede impacted individuals and communities from quickly receiving the assistance they need.



ODIC: Role & Strategic Plan

Linda Mastandrea – Director



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ODIC Mission

Helping people with disabilities before, during and after disasters.



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ODIC Vision

A world in which the self determination of people with disabilities is respected in all aspects of public life and people with disabilities are engaged in the development of policies, programs, and the design of public facilities.



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ODIC Strategic Plan – Goal 1

Advancing a Culture of Preparedness

- Support data driven decision making and planning for people with disabilities in all phases of emergency management.
- Mature the Community Advisory Group concept to include organizations that serve people with disabilities in all phases of emergency management at all levels of government and the private sector.
- Advance the concept of universal design as a measure to increase whole community resilience.



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ODIC Strategic Plan – Goal 2

Prepare the Nation for Catastrophic Disasters

- Integrate disability competency as an element of both the FEMA Qualification System and the National Qualification System.
- Support the collaboration with local, state, and national stakeholders to share innovative strategies and tools to better serve disaster survivors with disabilities during all phases of emergency management.
- Support outcome driven recovery through the development of metrics to measure programmatic outcomes for disaster survivors with disabilities.



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ODIC Strategic Plan – Goal 3

Reducing the Complexity of FEMA

- Streamline the grantee experience for disaster survivors with disabilities.
- Deepen engagement with Individual Assistance programs to jointly develop strategies to reduce barriers to access for disaster survivors with disabilities.
- Build knowledge of disability equities with Public Assistance and increase accessibility for recovery projects reimbursed through the Public Assistance program.



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ODIC's Role in Headquarters

- The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) created the role of a Disability Coordinator at FEMA.
- The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination grew out of the need to provide support to the Disability Coordinator.
- ODIC provides technical assistance and advisory service to FEMA leadership.
- ODIC staffs the Disability Integration desk in the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC).



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ODIC's Role in the Regions

- Each Region has a Regional Disability Integration Specialist (RDIS) to advise the Regional Administrator and Senior Regional Leadership.
- The RDIS advances the mission and strategic plan of ODIC in the Regions.
- The RDIS works with states and organizations to develop strategic partnerships with the disability community to promote a culture of preparedness.
- The RDIS supports the Regional Response Coordination Center as an advisor to the Director of the RRCC and leadership during activations.



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The Role of the Disability Integration Cadre in Disasters

- ODIC manages the Disability Integration Cadre; deploying Disability Integration Advisors to support disaster response and recovery operations.
- The Disability Integration Advisor is responsible for providing senior field leadership with advice and counsel to facilitate disability integration during all phases of response and recovery efforts.
- The Disability Integration Advisor accomplishes this task by providing:
 - Technical assistance in the identification and elimination of barriers to program access by disaster survivors with disabilities.
 - Strategies to efficiently and effectively meet the diverse needs of disaster survivors with disabilities.
 - Tactics on the integration of universal design into mitigation and recovery projects that can make rebuilding efforts inclusive of the whole community.



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Program and Policy Initiatives: An Overview

Arthur Craig – Program and Policy Branch Chief



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Program and Policy Initiatives

- Individual Assistance
- Disaster Recovery Reform Act
- Data Analysis
- Public Assistance
- Office of Response and Recovery



Program and Policy Initiative: Individual Assistance

Ed Ahern – Disability Integration Advisor – Individual Assistance Detail



Individual Assistance (IA)

•The Individual Assistance (IA) Division's mission is to ensure that individuals and families who have been affected by disasters have access to the full range of FEMA programs in a timely manner and that the best possible level of service is provided to applicants in the administration of programs such as:

- Individuals and Households Program (IHP)
- Mass Care and Emergency Assistance
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)
- Crisis Counseling Program (CCP)
- Disaster Legal Services (DLS)
- Disaster Case Management (DCM)



Individual Assistance (IA)

•ODIC Established Strategic Operations Detail: Disability Integration Special Advisor to IA leadership and program:

- Mentors & provides technical assistance to achieve enterprise-level disability integration across IA.
- Works to identify and fill immediate training and knowledge gaps.
- Develops plans to implement holistic solutions that support disability integration throughout IA.
- Assists IA with preparations for the 2019 hurricane season through training, technical support and additional resources to the field.



Individual Assistance (IA)

- Assessing & implementing accessible temporary housing solutions with IA housing staff at HQ and in the field.
- Developing job aids for DI and IA staff to collaborate to better serve disaster survivors throughout IA.
- Providing feedback and guidance related to FEMA policies, procedures and other processes that increase program access for people with disabilities.
- Facilitating communication between IA and DI field teams in the field.



Program and Policy Initiative: Disaster Recovery Reform Act

Arthur Craig – Program and Policy Branch Chief



Section 1212 - Disaster Recovery Reform Act

- Section 1212 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA)
 - Allowed for the expansion of Individuals and Households Program (IHP).
 - Amended Section 408(h) of the Stafford Act:
 - Removes the IHP financial assistance cap on Rental Assistance.
 - Separates Other Needs Assistance (ONA) from Repair and Replacement Assistance so they have equal and independent financial caps.
 - Removes the financial assistance cap for the repair or replacement of accessibility-related real property.
 - Removes the financial assistance cap on ONA for the repair or replacement of accessibility-related personal property.



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Program and Policy Initiative: Data Analysis

Jessica Gottesman – Data Analytics Program Analyst



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Data Analytics

- Inaugural Disability Metrics Report
- Gathering requirements for a national-level map tool integrating multiple data sources on disability
- Metrics dashboard prototype in Puerto Rico



Wording Update to RI Question on Disability

In May 2019, FEMA updated the wording of Registration Intake (RI) Question 24 about disability.

Result:

- Fourfold increase in disaster survivors responding “Yes” to Question 24, from ~3.4* percent to 14.8 percent**
- New percentages approximate the American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) disability statistics.



*IA-declared disasters between September 2018 and May 1, 2019.

**IA-declared disasters 4438, 4440, 4441, 4447, and 4451 declared since June 1, 2019.

Previous Q24 Text	Current Q24 Text
“Did you, your co-applicant, or any dependents have help or support doing things like walking, seeing, hearing, or taking care of yourself before the disaster and have you lost that help or support because of the disaster?”	“Did you or anyone in your household use any type of mobility or assistive device such as a wheelchair, walker, cane, hearing aid, service animal, personal care attendant, or other similarly medically-related devices or services that assist with disabilities or activities of daily living?”

Program and Policy Initiative: Public Assistance

Candice Alder – Programmatic Inclusivity – Public Assistance Program Analyst



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Public Assistance (PA)

- PA provides assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.
- FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures.



Public Assistance (PA)

- ODIC

- Engages key stakeholders to discuss how disaster funds can be utilized effectively to create greater accessibility within communities struck by declared disasters.
- Provides policy and implementation guidance.
- Is developing job aids and training tools for Project Managers, Site Inspectors and other field PA leaders.



Program and Policy Initiative: Office Of Response and Recovery

John Daly – Special Advisor to the Associate Administrator
– Office of Response and Recovery



Office of Response and Recovery (ORR)

- ORR is designed to provide a clear chain of command in disaster response and recovery efforts, and to better align, synchronize, and integrate complementary response and recovery missions.
- ODIC currently has a liaison on detail to the Office of Response and Recovery Front Office.
- This liaison works closely with the policy and doctrine group to ensure disability language and concepts are integrated into all Office of Response and Recovery policy and doctrine. Our goal is to continue to improve how we serve people with disabilities before, during and after disasters.



Recap

- ODIC's role & Strategic Plan aims to align with the FEMA mission & strategic plan by:
 - Building a culture of preparedness.
 - Greater access to FEMA's programs and services through reduction of complexity.
 - Readying the Nation for catastrophic disasters.
 - Streamlining the disaster survivor /grantee experience through empowering other program areas and strengthening policies.
 - Deepening engagement within all program areas including Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and the Office of Response and Recovery.
 - Decision making based on research driven data.



Questions

