

1.0 Recovery Support Function: Health and Social Services

1.1 Core Recovery Capability

The core recovery capability for health and social services is the ability to restore and improve health and social service networks to promote resilience, health, independence, and the well-being of the whole community.

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) coordinates the efforts of the Recovery Support Function (RSF) primary and supporting agencies to ensure those agencies with relevant authorities, expertise, and resources can provide assistance to, and collaborate with, public and private-sector partners.

1.2 Overview

The Health and Social Services (HSS) RSF mission is to assist locally led recovery efforts in the restoration of the public health, healthcare, and social services networks. This work includes all phases of disaster recovery and is implemented according to the needs identified by the local jurisdictions impacted by an event. As part of a HSS recovery strategy, State resources can be leveraged for a regional approach to optimize support across the area of impact.

The activities listed below fall under the HSS RSF:

- In the pre-event phase, plan, train, and exercise for situations and update existing plans.
- Restore basic health and social services functions. Identify critical areas of need for health and social services, as well as key partners and individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, and populations with limited English proficiency in short-term, intermediate, and long-term recovery.
- Restore and improve resilience and sustainability of the health and social services networks to meet the needs, and promote the independence and well-being, of community members.
- Complete an assessment of community health and social services needs and develop a comprehensive recovery timeline.
- Assist the impacted jurisdiction(s) by identifying resources for recovery. Through disaster case management, assist with the identification of unmet needs. Facilitate a strategy for meeting the identified unmet needs.
- Identify and leverage State, federal, and nongovernmental resources available for recovery needs.
- Facilitate a communications process for how programs and resources support postdisaster health and social service requirements and resilience-related recovery needs.
- Promote individual, family, and community HSS resiliency through disaster preparedness messaging.
- Coordinate planning activities across disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation for the purposes of supporting critical facilities and vulnerable populations.
- Coordinate State agency interactions with community disaster response and recovery services and resources.

- To the extent allowable, facilitate the sharing, aggregation, and integration of HSS data and recovery information across local, state, tribal, territorial and federal governments, organizations, and other stakeholders to support recovery decision making.

1.3 Responding Agency Hierarchy

A variety of partner agencies and organizations have important roles in the implementation of the Health and Social Services RSF. Each identified agency is designated a primary, coordinating, or supporting role based on their specific authorities, resources, and capabilities necessary for accomplishing the mission of the RSF. Consistent with the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), the coordination of programs delivered by these agencies can occur quickly based on their intended use, funding, population served, activation requirements, and authorities. The three recovery roles are:

Primary Agency: Provides direction and oversight for that particular sector and/or program involved.

Coordinating Agency: Facilitates communication and technical assistance needed for the implementation of actions by the primary and supporting agencies.

Supporting Agency: Assists primary and coordinating agencies with recovery actions consistent with their resources and capabilities.

Agency Role Identification	
Primary State Agency:	Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services
Primary Federal Agencies:	Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Department of Justice
Coordinating State Agency:	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Coordinating Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Supporting State/Federal Agencies:	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Treasury

Private/Nonprofit Partners:	American Red Cross, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, Disaster Distress Hotline, United Way
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1.3.1 Sectors of Consideration

This RSF is divided into three sectors. The sectors have different functions and involved agencies. The sectors are:

- Healthcare and Behavioral Healthcare Services
- Environmental Health and Food Safety
- Social Services and Disaster Case Management

A. Healthcare and Behavioral Healthcare Services

Healthcare services include the implementation of strategies to access and monitor the public health, disease surveillance, and injury prevention of the impacted community in order to identify and mitigate health problems. Potential impacts could include:

- Evaluating disaster-related structural, functional, and operational impacts to healthcare and behavioral healthcare facilities such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, assisted living centers, blood banks, dental offices, substance abuse treatment facilities, poison control centers, and laboratories.
- Identifying healthcare and behavioral healthcare needs that can no longer be met with community resources, such as the leveraging of the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, a state grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under ESF 6.
- Providing technical assistance, flexibility and waivers to assess and address healthcare service gaps to enhance the State’s ability to meet healthcare needs.

Healthcare and Behavioral Healthcare Agency Role Identification	
Primary State Agency:	Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Human Services
Primary Federal Agencies:	U.S. Department of Homeland Security/National Protection and Programs Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Coordinating State Agency:	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Coordinating Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Supporting State/Federal Agencies:	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa

	Office of the State Medical Examiner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Private/Nonprofit Partners:	American Red Cross, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council

B. Environmental Health and Food Safety

Environmental health services include the surveillance of the environment in an affected community to determine if postdisaster conditions may cause adverse public health effects. Potential assistance to lessen impacts may include:

- Identifying and mitigating public health threats in temporary sheltering, potable water, and wastewater that can cause or increase the likelihood of poor environmental health outcomes.
- Providing technical assistance, such as scientific data and modeling, and environmental health training.
- Assessing an impacted community’s food supply networks to ensure food safety.
- Providing guidance and direction concerning food handling and preparation postdisaster.

Environmental Health and Food Safety Agency Role Identification	
Primary State Agency:	Iowa Department of Public Health
Primary Federal Agencies:	Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/National Protection and Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Coordinating State Agency:	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Coordinating Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Supporting State/Federal Agencies:	Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa Department of Human Services, State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Private/Nonprofit Partners:	American Red Cross, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council
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C. Social Services and Disaster Case Management

Social services and disaster case management include the assessment of survivors within the impacted area, and may include children, people with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs. Disaster Case Management includes the identification of disaster-related social services needs that cannot be met with community resources due to the disaster event. Potential assistance to lessen the impact may include:

- Coordinating and implementing systems for the referral of individuals and families with unmet disaster-related needs to appropriate social services and maximizing existing social services programs to support local and nongovernmental organization efforts to lessen disruption.
- Facilitating or providing immediate delivery of subject matter expertise when requested by the State.
- Requesting federal grant funds to support the disaster case management program.

Social Services and Disaster Case Management Agency Role Identification	
Primary State Agency:	Iowa Department of Human Services
Primary Federal Agencies:	Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency
Coordinating State Agency:	Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
Coordinating Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Supporting State/Federal Agencies:	Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Treasury, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Small Business Administration
Private/Nonprofit Partners:	American Red Cross, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council

1.4 Transition from Response to Recovery

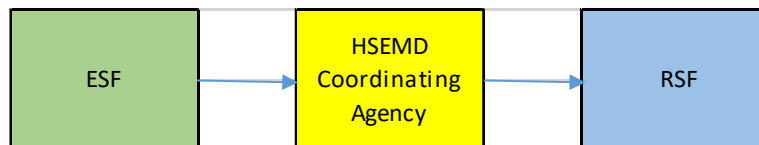
During a disaster event, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) may activate the coordination of emergency response resources. Depending on the type and severity of the disaster event, Emergency

Support Functions (ESFs) are activated to effectively address response needs. As disaster management tasks transition from response to recovery, HSEMD leadership initiates the transition to the Health and Social Services RSF. Once the Health and Social Services RSF activates, each ESF primary agency ensures a smooth transition from response to recovery activities.

The primary agency identified in the *Iowa Emergency Response Plan* for each ESF is responsible for briefing each primary State agency in the applicable sectors within the Health and Social Services RSF. HSEMD is the overarching coordinating agency that ensures open communication and coordination when transitioning from ESF to RSF. When the transition from ESF to RSF occurs, this effort becomes the basis of a recovery strategy for the Health and Social Services RSF, which is scalable to the type, impacts, and magnitude of the disaster event. Federal activation of the Health and Social Services RSF is generally considered upon the request of the State or based on one or more of the following factors:

- When the president declares a major disaster under the Stafford Act and federal assistance is requested by the appropriate State authorities to assist with their health and social services recovery efforts.
- When there is a public health emergency declaration by the secretary of Health and Human Services.
- When there is an activation of ESF 6 (mass care, emergency assistance, temporary housing, and human services) and/or ESF 8 (public health and medical services).
- When a jurisdiction is designated for both FEMA Public Assistance and Individual Assistance.
- When recovery activities to address health and social services disaster impacts involve more than one health and social services RSF primary agency.

Figure 1: Transition from Response to Recovery, 2016. Source: HSEMD



By ESF, the following chart identifies the agencies involved and tasks that could transition during recovery.

ESF to RSF Transition by Agency			
ESF	Primary State Agency	Primary Federal Agency	Task Assignment
3	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Wastewater and solid waste disposal (to include medical waste disposal), potable water delivery systems
6	Iowa Department of Human Services	U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management	Sheltering, crisis counseling, emergency first aid, reunification

		Agency, American Red Cross	
8	Iowa Department of Public Health	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Assessment of public health and medical needs; health surveillance; medical care personnel; equipment and supplies; patient evacuation; patient care; safety and security of human drugs, biologics, and medical devices; veterinary drugs and other HHS-regulated products; blood/blood products; food safety and security; agriculture safety and security; worker health and safety; behavioral health; providing health and medical information; vector control; mortuary services; protection of animal health
8	Iowa Department of Public Health	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Potable water
8	Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Victim identification

1.5 Recovery Responsibilities by Magnitude of Disaster

By gauging the magnitude of the event affecting the jurisdiction(s), each agency’s role can be identified to expedite the recovery process. Gauging the magnitude of the event allows each respective State agency to identify the agencies they will need to coordinate with, which aspect of recovery they will assist with, and at what magnitude level they will be needed in order to expedite the recovery process. Because the majority of recovery efforts under the Health and Social Services RSF can be long-term in nature, severe-magnitude events are usually seen as the main activating component. Long-term recovery actions generally address issues that go beyond both short-term and intermediate recovery and continue beyond 12 months.

Magnitude



For the Health and Social Services RSF, events with a minor magnitude classification usually require no recovery actions from State or federal agencies. Events of minor magnitude are generally handled by the local jurisdiction(s) impacted. Minor event activities could include local response to short-term water contamination, presence of diseases that could impact the community, and/or the need for sheltering after a storm. The surrounding jurisdictions may have the capacity to assist with recovery efforts. Actions that could enhance a community's preparedness to a hazard event include early assessment and identification of individuals with health or social services needs, and development of agreements between communities in order to access resources for coordination and planning purposes.

Magnitude



A moderate event requires recovery activities to address health, behavioral, environmental, and social services disaster impacts. Moderate events may result in a Governor's Proclamation and/or a Department of Health and Human Services Declaration for assistance. These declarations can activate the RSF, convene the Health and Social Services RSF working group, and formalize the structure for delivering State resources to local communities. Recovery may require a joint effort from local and State personnel to determine the need for equipment, technical assistance, supplies, and essential services. HSEMD will coordinate with local officials and each of the primary State agencies identified in the HSS RSF for the scoping of mission assignments and long-term strategy development.

Magnitude



A severe event that activates the federal Health and Social Services RSF requires the activation of at least one ESF and an identified recovery need that exceeds local and State capabilities. The State Emergency Operations Center is generally activated at this point and coordinates information for State and federal agencies to mobilize resources. Activation of federal RSF resources requires at least one of the following:

- A Presidential Disaster Declaration.
- A Public Health Emergency Declaration by the secretary of HHS.
- Recovery activities to address health and social services impacts involving more than one identified RSF primary agency.

1.6 Disaster-related Programs, Functions, Roles, and Responsibilities

1.6.1. State Agencies and Programs

A. Coordinating Agency

Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) works with health and social services partners for the purpose of developing efficient processes for the rebuilding of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health systems. Recovery objectives include an effective and efficient return to normalcy or a new standard of normalcy for the provision of healthcare delivery to the impacted community.¹

Once an ESF is activated, the Recovery Division administrator will monitor response operations to identify disaster impacts with health and social services implications. The state coordinating officer will also engage State of Iowa departments' subject matter experts to determine potential health and social services recovery impacts. Information on potential impacts will be used to support any needed requests for federal RSF activation mission-scoping assignments.

B. Primary State Agencies:

Primary agencies activated under the Health and Social Services RSF are responsible for anticipating disaster impacts to health and behavioral healthcare services, environmental/food supply impacts, and social services. The implementation of strategies to assess and monitor the impacts of disaster events is coordinated and supported through various agencies based on their functional capabilities.

Iowa Department of Public Health

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response, and Environmental Health provides support, technical assistance, and consultation to local public health agencies, hospitals, emergency medical service programs, and local healthcare providers regarding infectious diseases, disease prevention and control, injury prevention and control, and public health and healthcare emergency preparedness and response. Several sections make up the division including the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology, the Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services, Bureau of Immunization and TB, Bureau of Radiological Health, and Bureau of Environmental Health Services.

1. Preparedness Advisory Committee

The mission of the Preparedness Advisory Committee (PAC) is to participate in the development and maintenance of a statewide, sustainable public health emergency preparedness program that integrates public health and healthcare services across organizational and governmental boundaries. The PAC provides technical assistance and makes recommendations for the planning and implementation of the public health emergency preparedness program for the department. The committee advises the department

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on matters of policy, plan development, and funding allocations. Further, the Preparedness Advisory Committee acts as a coordination point for state, regional and local entities that are responsible for promoting and protecting the health and safety of Iowans before, during, and after a public health event.

Program Website: [IDPH Preparedness Advisory Committee](#)

2. Iowa's Public Health Response Teams

The Public Health Response Teams program supports four functional teams designed to respond to public health emergencies across the state. Response could include severe weather events, disease outbreaks, or large-scale disasters. The members of the Public Health Response Teams are volunteers from healthcare institutions, local public health and environmental health agencies, county medical examiner offices, private industry, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, and IDPH staff. The four Public Health Response Teams are:

- Iowa Volunteer Disaster Medical Assistance Team - provides medical care during public health emergencies.
- Environmental Health Response Team - provides environmental health monitoring services such as air and water quality, waste water system, and food services.
- Logistical Response Support Team - provides logistical support for all public health response teams.
- Iowa Mortuary Operational Response Team - provides identification services and care for decedents following a mass fatality incident.

❖ **Activating Mechanism** - A Governor's Proclamation.

Program Website: [IDPH Public Health Response Teams](#)

3. Medical Reserve Corps

Medical Reserve Corps units are community based and function as a way to locally organize and utilize volunteers, medical professionals, and others who want to donate their time and expertise to respond to emergencies. Volunteers under this program supplement existing local emergency and public health resources.

Tasks include:

- Supporting local public health while advancing the priorities of promoting disease prevention, improving health literacy, eliminating health disparities, and enhancing public health preparedness.
- Assisting local hospitals and health departments with surge personnel needs.
- Participating in mass prophylaxis and vaccination activities, exercises, and community disaster drills.
- Training with local emergency response partners.

Program Website: [IDPH Medical Reserve Corps](#)

4. Iowa's Health Alert Network

The Iowa Health Alert Network (HAN) system is a secure, web-based communication system. The HAN communication system is a partnership implemented by the Iowa Department of Public Health, local public health agencies, hospitals, and other agencies. The Health Alert Network is designed to enable a 24/7 flow of critical information between IDPH and local partners throughout the state.

Capabilities include:

- Distributing rapid health information, including important documents and announcements.
- Facilitating collaborative sharing between agencies throughout Iowa.
- Providing multiple formats to deliver notifications including email, phone, pager, and text messaging.

Program Website:

[IDPH HAN](#)

Iowa Department of Human Services

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) helps Iowans achieve healthy, safe, stable, and self-sufficient lives through programs and services. Several divisions within DHS support activities under healthcare and social services. Divisions include the Division of Field Operations, Division of Adult, Children and Family Services, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services, and Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. The divisions within DHS engage in activities that support this RSF as part of their daily responsibilities. Daily responsibility functions are not specifically addressed here.

Both the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program (IIAGP) and Disaster Case Management Program are delivered through a contracted agency. The contractor provides weekly reports to DHS on the impacts to citizens in areas that are covered under a Governor's Proclamation.

5. Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team

The federal Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program is available to Iowans through the Iowa Department of Human Services. Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) members provide services that may be delivered at a disaster site, in an affected community, or statewide. Immediate response services include behavioral health needs assessment, psychological first aid, crisis intervention, community outreach, public information, and behavioral health consultation. Additional services provided by DBHRT members may include activities related to the transition from response to recovery, preparedness, and mitigation.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - The governor or a designee of the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management can activate the Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team during a federal or state disaster situation. Local authorities may request Iowa DBHRT assistance in order to meet the behavioral health needs of communities in crisis by contacting the HSEMD duty officer at any time.

Program Website:

[DHS Behavioral Health Response Team](#)

6. Disaster Case Management

Disaster case management is a partnership between the provider and the disaster-affected client who together develop a comprehensive disaster recovery plan. Through this partnership, disaster case managers assist clients in connecting with the resources necessary to accomplish their recovery plan. Disaster case management includes intake and screening assessment, recovery planning, action and advocacy, monitoring, and case closure.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - When a disaster occurs, the governor may issue a disaster proclamation for the affected counties. When a Governor's Proclamation is issued for an Iowa county, the Iowa Disaster Case Management Program is automatically activated when the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program is requested and activated. If a Presidential Disaster Declaration for federal Individual Assistance Program funding is issued for the same event and includes federal disaster case management, the State program remains in effect.

Program Website:

[DHS Disaster Assistance Programs](#)

7. Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Grants are available to residents for car repairs, replacement of clothing or food, and for the expense of temporary housing. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery.

The intent of this program is to reimburse for damage done to personal property, residences, or temporary housing due to displacement for damage to residence. Adjustments to [Iowa Code § 29C.20A](#) and [IAC Chapter 58 Emergency Assistance](#) would need to be addressed by and through DHS.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - When a disaster occurs, the governor may issue a Governor's Proclamation for the affected counties. When a Governor's Proclamation is issued for an Iowa county, the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program can be activated at the request of local emergency management officials to help those Iowans adversely affected. If a Presidential Disaster Declaration for federal Individual Assistance Program funding is issued for the same event, the State program is automatically canceled as the federal program then goes into effect.

Program Website:

[DHS Disaster Assistance Programs](#)

C. Supporting State Agencies and Programs

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for all waste management and disposal including medical waste. Medical waste is considered "special waste" and, in accordance with [Iowa Administrative Code \(IAC\) Chapter 567-109](#), requires special authorization for disposal. Nonmedical waste is handled in the same manner as other solid waste and the process for management and disposal

can be found in the *Part C: State of Iowa Disaster Recovery Plan Support Annex: Debris Management of the Iowa Comprehensive Emergency Plan*.

Program Website:

[DNR Special Waste Authorization](#)

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) is a multifaceted regulatory agency charged with protecting the health, safety, and well-being of Iowans. Staff in the department are responsible for inspecting and licensing or certifying healthcare providers and suppliers, restaurants and grocery stores, social and charitable gambling operations, hotels and motels, and barber and beauty shops. In addition, DIA staff investigate alleged fraud in the State's public assistance programs and conduct contested case hearings to settle disputes between Iowans and various State government agencies. After a disaster, DIA inspects all closed facilities and determines the requirements for reopening.

Program Website:

[Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals](#)

State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa

As Iowa's public health and environmental laboratory, the State Hygienic Laboratory serves all 99 counties through disease detection, environmental monitoring, and newborn and maternal screening. The Environmental Health Program performs diverse sample testing of everything from air to wastewater, including clinical specimens (blood, hair, teeth, urine, etc.), fish, foods (spinach, orange juice, etc.), soil and sediment, water (drinking water, groundwater, wastewater, and surface water), and the unusual (athletic shoes, beehives, mail, various unknown powders, etc.). The State Hygienic Laboratory offers both the total coliform bacteria and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* testing for Iowa's public swimming pool and spa regulations.

1.6.2 Federal Agency Roles, Responsibilities and Programs

A. Coordinating Agency

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides technical assistance to support recovery planning and postdisaster activities for public health, healthcare, behavioral health, and social services infrastructure. The department also coordinates with local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal partners to assess food, animal, water, and air conditions to ensure safety. HHS can provide assessment information regarding the consequences on the health and human services sectors in an affected community. The department can also provide technical assistance regarding program eligibility, application processes, and project requirements for HHS programs as applicable under existing authorities.

The Public Health Service Act, Title 42 U.S.C., forms the foundation of HHS legal authority for responding to public health emergencies. The Act authorizes the HHS secretary to:

- Lead all federal public health and medical response to public health emergencies and incidents covered by the National Response Framework.
- Direct the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) and other components of the department to respond to a public health emergency.
- Declare a public health emergency (PHE) and take such actions as may be appropriate to respond to the PHE consistent with existing authorities.
- Assist states in meeting health emergencies.
- Control communicable diseases.
- Maintain the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Provide for the operation of the National Disaster Medical System.
- Establish and maintain a Medical Reserve Corps.
- Potentially provide targeted immunity for covered countermeasures to manufacturers, distributors, certain classes of people involved in the administration of a program to deliver covered treatments to patients and their employees.

The Public Health Service Act was amended by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act of 2006 (PAHPA) and more recently by the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act (PAHPRA) of 2013, which have broad implications for the department's preparedness and response activities. The PAHPRA reauthorizes certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act under Title 21 U.S.C. with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness.

One of the key components of the PAHPA was the creation of the National Health Security Strategy, which included the creation of the National Health Security Strategy and Implementation Plan. This plan talks through interagency processes across the emergency management cycle. The goal of the National Health Security Strategy (NHSS) is to strengthen and sustain communities' abilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from disasters and emergencies. The NHSS Implementation Plan lists activities that will help achieve this goal.

8. Declaration of Public Health Emergency

Under the authority of Section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services can declare a public health emergency if a disease or disorder presents a public health emergency, there is a significant outbreak of infectious diseases, or for bioterrorist attacks.

This declaration can:

- Waive certain Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule requirements.
- Adjust Medicare reimbursement for certain Part B drugs.
- Waive certain Ryan White HIV/AIDS grant program requirements.
- Make temporary appointments of personnel to positions that directly respond to the public health emergency for up to one year.

- Modify the practices of telemedicine.
- Temporarily reassign state and local personnel when requested by the governor.
- Determine if a waiver of Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements is necessary.
- Waive certain requirements of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA).
- Allow the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to issue dislocated worker program grants for disaster relief employment pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 3225.

There are instances where, depending on the severity of the event, the secretary of HHS may declare a public health emergency in close proximity to a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Previous instances when this has happened have been after a significant hurricane (hurricanes Maria, Irma, and Harvey are recent examples), severe flooding (flooding in North Dakota in 2011) or the tornado that impacted Joplin, Missouri, in 2011.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - The governor, in coordination with the Iowa Department of Public Health, makes a formal request for assistance. The president or the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services can declare a U.S. public health emergency based on the information provided from that request.

Program Website:	HHS Public Health Emergency
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9. Disaster Distress Helpline

Managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Disaster Distress Helpline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the United States.

Tasks include:

- Delivering crisis counseling for those who are in emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster.
 - Providing information on how to recognize distress and its effects on individuals and families.
 - Identifying tips for healthy coping.
 - Offering referrals to local crisis call centers or 2-1-1 call centers for additional follow-up care and support.
- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - Ongoing assistance, but targeted toward people dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.

Program Website:	Disaster Distress Helpline
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B. Primary Agencies:

As the coordinating agency for the Health and Social Services RSF, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will facilitate disaster recovery collaboration between the primary agencies.

Primary agencies have pre-defined authorities, roles, resources, and/or capabilities to support health and social services recovery after a disaster. Consistent with the National Disaster Recovery Framework, these agencies are listed below.

Corporation for National and Community Service

When mission tasked, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) may provide the following recovery support, personnel, and services in the event of a disaster:

- Provide trained members from national service programs, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, to support communities' most pressing needs, including disaster recovery
 - Facilitate and leverage volunteer engagement for disaster recovery by working closely with state service commissions, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD), and other local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal partners to provide national service members and resources in myriad recovery functions
 - Engage in case management intake, direct physical labor, volunteer management and leadership, and capacity building for local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal governments, nonprofit, and faith-based organizations
 - Provide technical assistance to facilitate sharing of best practices among state service commissions, grantees, and communities to address specific regional and local needs during long-term recovery.
- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - CNCS can be assigned a mission task from FEMA to support recovery coordination specifically focused on volunteers.

U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education may provide:

- Support for the restoration of the learning environment for students and staff in impacted communities as available and appropriate.
- Support to federal partners in the coordination of health and social services delivered through impacted schools.
- Support to local, state, tribal, territorial, and federal partners in the coordination of enrollment, educational services, and health and social services for students who are homeless or displaced prior to, or as a result of, the disaster.
- Incident-specific technical assistance and training to schools and higher education institutions in impacted areas, as available and appropriate.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The National Protection and Programs Directorate can provide information and technical expertise through the Office of Infrastructure Protection, Sector Outreach and Programs Division, in protective measures for critical infrastructure and has sector liaisons who coordinate between all 16 critical infrastructure sectors and the private sector.

The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may provide:

- Communication support with relevant stakeholder networks, to include individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, diverse ethnic and racial communities, and limited English proficiency (LEP) populations, to share accurate information and obtain public perspective.
- Coordination with relevant U.S. Department of Homeland Security (US DHS) components and federal interagency and nongovernmental organization partners as needed to identify resources to ensure equal access to physical/architectural, programmatic, and communications aspects of the recovery process for all populations within the impacted community.
- Participation in the impact assessment protocol to obtain information regarding impacts to protected populations (individuals who are statutorily protected on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, and other characteristics) and to provide civil rights guidance to ensure recovery activities address these impacts in an equitable manner.
- Guidance and resources to assure recovery activities respect the civil rights and civil liberties of all populations and do not result in discrimination on account of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), religion, sex, age, disability, or other characteristics.
- Monitoring of recovery activities to ensure equal opportunity and civil rights laws are upheld.
- Monitoring of complaints received to identify trends and respond accordingly.

The Office of Security and Technology Directorate may provide:

- Timely knowledge and expert planning products for response and recovery related to chemical threats and the detection of explosives.
- Diagnostics and vaccines necessary for the protection of livestock from foreign animal diseases.

The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination may provide:

- Coordination of communication to stakeholder networks including individuals with disabilities, access and functional needs, diverse ethnic and racial communities, and limited English proficiency.
- Monitoring of complaints to identify trends and respond accordingly.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides a wide range of technical assistance and program resources to assist states and local governments in addressing unsafe living conditions after disaster events. These services can include:

- Providing best practices and technical assistance regarding the Lead and Healthy Homes Grant Program.
- Engaging in the review and collection of impacted community data for the purposes of directing future services, programs, and activities.
- Promoting and funding housing repairs to address conditions that threaten the health of residents, support key research, and enforce laws that protect occupant health.

U.S. Department of Justice

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) may assist with:

- Coordinating via the U.S. Attorney with the Iowa Attorney General's Office and with other law enforcement agencies to ensure a comprehensive response.
- Enforcing criminal laws of the United States and conducting affirmative and defensive civil litigation.
- Coordinating anti-fraud enforcement efforts and serving as a clearinghouse for disaster fraud matters through the National Disaster Fraud Command Center.
- Monitoring recovery activities to ensure compliance with equal opportunity and civil rights laws.
- Enforcing prosecution and civil litigation, promulgating regulations, and providing guidance on compliance with federal civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- Receiving complaints, investigating, and prosecuting violations of federal criminal civil rights statutes.
- Providing confidence in public safety by the enforcement of federal law.

U.S. Department of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor supports disaster recovery through providing the following related to income and job assistance:

- Coordinates assistance programs to assist individual, households, and businesses in meeting basic needs and return to self-sufficiency.
- Provides funds to support immediate needs for worker training programs.
- Provides technical assistance and support to protect health and safety for recovery workers.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may:

- Provide technical assistance to support recovery planning of public health, healthcare, and social services infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance for long-term cleanup to minimize public health threats, including environmental sampling and monitoring, site assessment, decontamination, and disposal.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides technical assistance and resources for the purposes of disaster recovery. Several resources available through a Presidential Disaster Declaration can be utilized for recovery under the Health and Social Services RSF.

10. Individual Assistance

Federal Program Description:

Federal Individual Assistance Program, Individuals and Households Program (IHP) funding is made available to homeowners, renters, and businesses and can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other aid programs. Individuals may also be eligible for Other Needs Assistance (ONA) including medical and dental expenses and replacement of essential personal property such as furniture, clothing, and some appliances.

The Individual Assistance Program can also provide crisis counseling, training programs, disaster unemployment assistance, disaster legal services, and disaster case management.

❖ **Activating Mechanism** - A Presidential Disaster Declaration designated for Individual Assistance.

Cost Share Requirements:

Within the federal Individual Assistance Program, the Individuals and Households Program supports under or uninsured individuals and households. This program is divided into two parts: Housing Assistance (Direct) and Other Needs Assistance. Housing Assistance is fully federally funded. ONA has a federal share that is not less than 75 percent with the state government responsible for the remaining 25 percent.

Program Website:

[FEMA Individual Assistance Policy Digest](#); [Disaster Assistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov)

11. Public Assistance

There are several aspects of the Presidential Disaster Declaration designated for Public Assistance that have ties to the health and social services function. Category B work is described below and could include:

- Emergency protective measures conducted before, during, and after an incident are eligible if the measures eliminate or lessen immediate threats to lives, public health, or safety.
- Measures to eliminate or lessen immediate threats of significant additional damage to improved public or private property in a cost-effective manner.

Under the Public Assistance Program Category B Emergency Protective Measures, reimbursement includes public health costs incurred by government and eligible private nonprofit agencies.

❖ **Activating Mechanism** - A Presidential Disaster Declaration designated for Public Assistance.

Program Website:

[FEMA Public Assistance Policy Digest](#)

C. Supporting Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides a wide variety of programs intended to support communities, farmers, ranchers, and businesses that have experienced serious impacts from disaster events. Typically, the county and community-level outreach agency is the Farm Service Agency or Rural Development.

The Farm Service Agency can:

- Provide technical and financial assistance regarding health and social services and USDA-related program eligibility (childcare centers, hospitals, nursing homes) application processes and project requirements.
 - Provide health and social services and physical assessment of disaster impacts on USDA-financed health-related infrastructure programs.
 - Provide technical advice on health impacts associated with animal/zoonotic disease or plant pest infestation, carcass disposal, and disease management to safeguard public health.
 - Safeguard the health of humans, animals, and the environment (including agriculture).
 - Help evaluate the extent of exposure to susceptible species (plant or animal) from the loss of biosecurity of a premises or area and ensure the premises or area reestablishes its biosecurity status as soon as possible for premises or areas under USDA regulatory control in the affected region.
- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - Programs are activated under a Presidential Disaster Declaration or an independent USDA Secretarial Designation.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) specifically focuses on the needs of, and impacts to, military veterans. The department can:

- Provide priority services to veterans, when requested, subject to the availability of resources and funding, and consistent with the Department of Veterans Affairs mission.
- Coordinate with participating National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) hospitals to provide incident-related medical care to authorized NDMS beneficiaries affected by a major disaster or emergency.
- Furnish available DVA hospital care and medical services to individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise affected by, a major disaster or emergency, including members of the armed forces on active duty.
- Designate and deploy available medical, surgical, mental health, and other health service support assets.
- Provide a Medical Emergency Radiological Response Team for technical consultation on the medical management of injuries and illnesses due to exposure to, or contamination by, ionizing radiation.
- Alert DVA Federal Coordinating Centers to activate NDMS patient reception plans in a phased, regional approach, and, when appropriate, in a national approach.
- Bury and memorialize eligible veterans, their eligible dependents, and advise on methods for interment during national or homeland security emergencies.

U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans to help businesses and homeowners recover from declared disasters through a wide variety of means. When activated, these programs can:

- Provide loans for property damage to nonfarm businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations and Economic Injury (working capital) Disaster Loans to eligible businesses and private nonprofits.
 - Provide technical assistance regarding program eligibility, application processes, and project requirements.
 - Provide counseling and other technical assistance to small businesses.
 - Promote small business access to capital through loans, investments, etc., aimed at sustaining businesses applications.
 - Support RSF national and field-level operations with small business expertise and staffing support.
- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - Activated under a Presidential Disaster Declaration designated for Public Assistance or an independent SBA Administrator Designation.

U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) may provide technical assistance in long-term recovery planning and the engineering of transportation infrastructure systems, including paratransit systems, necessary to support healthcare and social services facilities.

U.S. Department of Treasury

The U.S. Department of Treasury may provide:

- Support for the RSF national and field-level operations with subject matter expertise.
- Support for the RSF in the areas of financial literacy and tax-related assistance through education, outreach, and tax return preparation assistance.

1.6.3 State Private Nonprofit Partners

Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council

The mission of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) is to coordinate a holistic approach to disaster recovery by maximizing public and private resources, thereby providing an efficient system that can address immediate and long-term physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of impacted citizens. The IDHRC acts as the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) for Iowa. The IDHRC provides last-resort unmet needs assistance to those individuals hardest hit by a declared or nondeclared disaster, and who may not have had their needs addressed through various recovery programs. The IDHRC is a member of the National VOAD.

The state voluntary agency liaison coordinates with the IDHRC on matters associated with voluntary agencies across the state as they engage in actions that support recovery efforts.

Program Website:

[IDHRC, Iowa VOAD website](#)

1.6.4 Nationwide Private Nonprofit Resources

American Red Cross

After the emergency phase of response is completed, the American Red Cross assists individuals and communities through recovery by:

- Providing case management assistance with unmet needs and health and mental health services, as local resources are available.
- Supporting community recovery by providing health education, preventative measures (e.g., vaccinations), or by assisting public health with long-term health monitoring, as local resources are available.
- Providing mental health recovery and resilience information, tools, and resources to school personnel, community members, mental health providers, community service providers, and other key stakeholders.
- Providing psychological first aid and resilience training to community members, as needed.
- Providing information to the public on the adequacy of the blood supply to meet current needs or request public support in scheduling blood donations to support postdisaster requirements.

National Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) is an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters and provide a forum promoting effective recovery. NVOAD can:

- Facilitate communication, cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between NVOAD members and partners and throughout communities to better prepare for, and respond to, disasters and other emergency incidents.
- Assist with communicating to the government and the public the services provided by its member organizations.
- Facilitate information sharing during planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and after a disaster incident.
- Provide members with information pertaining to the severity of the disaster, identified needs, and actions of volunteers and others throughout the response, relief, and recovery process.
- Provide guidance on standards, guidelines, or best practices for survivor mass care, case management, emotional and spiritual care, housing, repair and/or rebuilding, long-term recovery, and the management of unaffiliated volunteers and unsolicited donated goods.

United Way

The United Way operates the 211 system as a means to assist citizens with local services and to help them access assistance quickly. Iowa uses this system to communicate citizen needs to a central location in order to initiate the building of support requirements.

- ❖ **Activating Mechanism** - Ongoing assistance, but targeted toward people dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.