

Planning to Respond to Vulnerable Neighbors

Community Assessment

Group by jurisdictions – one laptop or tablet per group

Choose a local community within your jurisdiction to assess (zip code or county)

Find the following stats:

- Total population of the community
- Number of persons who are not US born citizens
- Number of persons who are non-English speaking
- Number of persons with disabilities aged 16-64
- Number of persons with disabilities aged 65 and over
- Number of persons living in poverty
- Anything else your group feels is relevant for a pre-disaster community assessment

Report Back

- What level of delivery service would you contemplate in your pre-planning process?
- How would you address the relationship between your facility and a vulnerable population in your community?
- Given the vulnerable populations in this community, who would your ecumenical and network partners be?

Planning to Respond to Vulnerable Neighbors

- Now that you have statistically identified the number of persons who are “vulnerable”, how do you physically verify where and who these individuals are?
- How do we connect with this community before the disaster in order to be able to access and serve the community following disaster?
- Work “Ecumenically.” Network, formally and informally, with other faith leaders in your community.
- Identify communities where the “vulnerable” persons are in highest concentration.
- Establish and / or nurture connections with vulnerable neighborhoods.
- Engage in disaster recovery organizations. Share information and resources.

Action Steps

- Take initiative to identify vulnerable individuals, groups, neighborhoods
- The most active thing a congregation can do is to advocate before the disaster
- Forge relationships ecumenically prior to disaster
- Hospitality – Inclusivity with your neighbors
- Connect with emergency response organizations.
- Search communities for other faiths
- Identify where folks can get demographic info for their communities.