

Functional Needs Support Services



What are Functional Needs Support Services???

- Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) are defined as services that enable individuals to maintain their independence in a general population shelter.
- It means **Equal Access** to all services provided by the shelter.

Is there a need for Functional Needs Support Services?

- 54 million people suffer disabilities in the United States.
- 61% of people with disabilities have not made plans to quickly and safely evacuate their homes.
- Only 24% of people with disabilities made emergency plan preparations specific to their disability.
- 34.7 million people (12.7% of the US population) are 65 years and older. By 2030, that number will increase to 64.9 million people.

Why do we have to provide FNSS?

It's the Law!

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), children and adults with disabilities are entitled to equal opportunity to participate in programs, services, and activities in the most integrated setting.

It's still the Law:

- **RSMo. Chapter 44 Section 44.080, 2 (1)**
“Appropriate and expend funds, make contracts, obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons; the safety of property; and direct and coordinate the development of disaster plans and programs in accordance with the policies and plans of the federal and state governments;”

Why the Focus on Planning?

The decisions made in the planning process determine whether integration or segregation occurs during response.

The Big Change With FNSS

**“Special Needs
Shelters”
General Population
Shelters**

Walk a mile...

- What is it like to be a person with a disability during and after an emergency?
- Can one hear or understand the warnings?
- Can one quickly exit a home or workplace?
- Can one move about the community after evacuating?
- Will there be necessary or even vital daily items (medicines, power supplies, medical devices) available in the shelter?
- Does the person require assistance from a caregiver?

Getting Started...

- **Identify** - those in the community who might have functional needs
- **Customize** - awareness and preparedness messages and materials
- **Educate** - citizens with disabilities about realistic expectations
- **Learn** - from the knowledge, experiences, and non-traditional resources in the disability community
- **Work** -with institutional and industry-specific groups

Concepts To Comply with the Law

- Self-Determination
- No “One-Size-Fits-All”
- Equal Opportunity
- Inclusion
- Integration
- Physical Access
- Equal Access
- Effective Communication
- Program Modifications
- No Charge

FNSS Basic Planning

- Assistance with activities of daily living such as:
 - eating
 - taking medication
 - dressing and undressing
 - transferring to and from a wheelchair or other mobility aid
 - walking
 - stabilization
 - bathing
 - toileting
 - communicating

Items to Consider in FNSS Planning:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Communication assistance | ■ Access to orientation and way-finding |
| ■ DME, CMS, and/or PAS that assist with activities of daily living | ■ Access to an air-conditioned and/or heated environment |
| ■ Access to medications to maintain health, mental health, and function | ■ Individuals with dietary restrictions |
| ■ Cognitive and intellectual disabilities | ■ Providing food and supplies for service animals |
| ■ Transportation resources | ■ Post-disaster alternative housing |

FNSS Planning Includes:

- Reasonable modification to policies, practices, and procedures
- Access to:
 - Durable medical equipment (DME)
 - Consumable medical supplies (CMS)
 - Personal assistance services (PAS)
 - Other goods and services as needed

Shelters need to have accessible:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Entrances | ■ Sleeping areas |
| ■ Routes to all services/activity areas | ■ Restrooms, showers, and toilet stalls, including portable toilets |
| ■ Routes within toilet rooms | ■ Public telephones |
| ■ Passenger drop off and pick up areas | ■ Drinking fountains |
| ■ Parking | ■ Eating areas |
| ■ Sidewalks and walkways | ■ Medical first aid areas |
| ■ Shelter entrances, hallways, and corridors | ■ Recreation areas |
| ■ Check in/information areas | |

Accessible Shelters?

Facilities that have been built or altered since 1992 are more likely to comply with the architectural requirements of the ADA

What's the cost of compliance?

- We can't afford to do all this stuff!
- You can't afford NOT to do this stuff!
 - Planning
 - Reasonable modifications

State Assistance

SEMA has a new concept to assist the locals in complying with the new guidance by conducting assessments at the shelter site. These assessments will assist the local jurisdiction meeting the needs of those who need FNSS.

FAST Teams

- **Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST)**
 - Conduct Assessments
 - Evaluates Functional Needs
 - Determines Resources Needed

FAST Teams

- FAST Teams consists of:
 - Government employees
 - Personnel from community-based organizations
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - extensive knowledge of the populations they serve
 - the needs of the shelter to which they were assigned
 - available services and resources

Benefits of FAST Teams

- Keeps your jurisdiction in compliance
- Gives you, the local government, eyes and ears in the shelter
- Assists in providing FNSS
- Volunteers may become a train the trainer cadre

In Conclusion:

- Before the new guidance, had to plan for two shelters
- Saves resources
- Need to involve the entire community in the planning process
- It's the right thing to do
