



Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems: Resource Roadmap



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR STATES

The *Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems* series supports states and jurisdictions in disaster planning, response, and recovery. These resources may be particularly helpful as agencies complete annual disaster planning to meet federal strategic planning requirements. Each section of the guide contains **Lessons Learned** and **Thinking Outside the Box Callouts** to prompt thinking and discussion, **At-a-Glance Checklists**, and **Examples** of real-world disaster management.

Agency leadership, program managers, and disaster planning teams can use this series to develop and inform planning, response, and recovery efforts across different types of disasters (e.g., floods, earthquakes, workplace violence, pandemics).

Access the collection on the [Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems webpage](#).

Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems Guide

This comprehensive resource supports agency efforts to plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The guide is divided into three sections that can be used separately or together to meet specific jurisdictional needs.



Planning for Disaster

Refer to this section to help develop comprehensive and thoughtful disaster plans.

Content prompts thinking about readiness, key partnerships, communication, youth and family preparedness, and technology.

The end of this section provides step-by-step guidance for practicing your disaster response.



Responding to Disaster

Use the two parts of this section to walk through steps and considerations for your agency's initial response to a disaster and guidance for how to coordinate an ongoing disaster response.



Recovering from Disaster

Read this section to learn more about how to manage short- and long-term recovery efforts, while keeping families at the forefront, focusing on innovation, and addressing disproportionate impact.

Four appendices include Additional Resources, a Teaming Checklist, a Resource Family Disaster Plan Template, and a Disaster Documentation Tool.



Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems: Disaster Impact Planning Matrix

Planning teams can use this tool to prepare for disaster impacts their agency may face. The tool gives examples of impacts or challenges that are common across different types of disasters (e.g., loss of utilities, communication challenges), and suggests activities and questions that help agencies be better prepared. The end of the tool includes a worksheet for use by planning teams.

Tip: Use this tool together with the first section of the guide, Planning for Disaster, to support your disaster planning process.



Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems: Leading Your Agency Through a Disaster

This two-page tip sheet helps leaders apply the day-to-day elements of child welfare leadership to disaster management. The publication includes examples of action across phases and questions to prompt thinking about family centered practice, equity, effective deployment of workforce, and community collaboration.



Tip: Use this tool to understand critical leadership tasks in disaster planning, response, and recovery.

How Can I Be Better Prepared for the Next Disaster?

Components of the Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems series can be used alone or together to help agencies develop, refine, and implement effective disaster plans. Review the questions below and on the [series webpage](#) as you consider how the different products can help your agency plan for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Disasters affect community access to food, housing, and other basic needs. How can I effectively coordinate with others to meet the immediate needs of youth, families, and staff during and after a disaster?

- ▷ Use the Disaster Impact Planning Matrix with your planning team and community partners to identify collaborative strategies for meeting the basic needs of youth, families, and staff.
- ▷ Review the following sections of the *Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems Guide* with your team:
 - Collaborate With Families, Youth, and Stakeholders in Planning (pg. 12)
 - Collaborate With Other Relevant State Agencies, Programs, and Service Providers (pg. 16)
 - Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (North Dakota): Preventive Action for Tribal Family Well-Being (pg. 42)
 - Partner With Federal, State, and Local Organizations to Rebuild (pg. 52)

Communities experience trauma from disasters. How can I effectively respond to youth, family, and staff trauma during and after a disaster?

- ▷ Use the Disaster Impact Planning Matrix and review “Leading Your Agency Through a Disaster” for tips and ideas for responding to family, youth, and workforce trauma.
- ▷ Review the following sections of the *Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems Guide* with your team:
 - Plan for Additional Trauma-Informed Care in Response to the Disaster (pg. 21)
 - Set Up Support Services for Staff (pg. 34)
 - Louisiana’s Approach to Dealing With Secondary Trauma (pg. 43)
 - Trauma-Informed Care for Youth and Families During a Disaster (pg. 46)

Disasters often disrupt technology. What can I do to assess gaps and prepare for different scenarios?

- ▷ Use the Disaster Impact Planning Matrix to prepare for common technology challenges and opportunities.
- ▷ Review the following sections of the *Coping With Disasters and Strengthening Systems Guide* with your team:
 - Assess Agency Technology Capacity (pg. 8)
 - Plan for Technology Needs (pg. 20)
 - Louisiana: Policies and Procedures for Remote Work (pg. 21)
 - Develop a Communication Plan (pg. 25)
 - Confirm That Information Systems and Technology Needs Are Being Met (pg. 47)

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