

Office of Head Start

Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services



*National Academies of Sciences
Children and Youth in Disasters
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Dr. Deborah Bergeron, Director



ACF's Steady State *Preparation for Natural Disasters*

- **Office of Community Services/Office of Family Assistance**
 - **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
 - Funding to states, territories and tribes
 - Pay home heating and cooling
 - LIHEAP Funding may be used to respond to disasters (temporary housing, generators, shelters...)
 - Weatherization – (caulking, insulation...)
- **Family Youth Services Bureau**
 - **Family Violence Prevention and Services ACT**
 - Domestic violence increases during disasters
 - FVPSA provides a liaison to OHSEPR's team to ensure collaboration
 - **Runaway and Homeless Youth**
 - Emergency Preparedness Plan: Includes strategies for addressing evacuation, security, food, medical supplies, and notification of youths' families, as appropriate.



ACF's Steady State *Preparation for Natural Disasters*

- Administration for Native Americans

- ANA is focused on preparation for Native American and Tribal communities by providing resources on natural disaster preparation on the ANA website, through webinar trainings as well as through in person training opportunities.
- Example: Office of Human Services Preparedness and Response provided training to participants at the ACF Native American Grantee Meeting in February 2020. These sessions are an important opportunity to tribal and other native communities to plan in advance for providing services, developing continuity of operations plans and completing projects should they be faced with a disaster.

- Office on Trafficking in Persons

- OTIP worked closely with OHSEPR and ASPR to identify flexibilities and waivers for grantees and develop an infographic titled, "[Preventing Human Trafficking: What Disaster Responders Need to Do](#)".
 - Provides administrative relief to grantees such as postponing deadlines for the submission of program performance and financial reports, and the option to extend client enrollment in federal anti-trafficking programs administered by OTIP during a natural disaster.
 - Raises awareness of the potential for human trafficking and provides advice on steps to prepare, respond, and recover in the aftermath of a disaster.
 - Includes common schemes traffickers use to lure people into trafficking situations following a disaster. OTIP also conducted a literature review on human trafficking and natural disasters to inform program and policy development, and public awareness efforts.



ACF's Steady State *Preparation for Natural Disasters*

- Office of Refugee Resettlement
 - Unaccompanied Youth (UAC)
 - Partnership with Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) works with Division of Planning and Logistics (DPL) to monitor threats and reports impacts to care providers with necessary follow up actions
 - DPL provides training to UAC Program Divisions on emergency preparedness and response throughout the year to ensure staff are trained and prepared for potential natural disasters.
 - Refugee Programs -
 - Policy Flexibilities During Natural Disasters
 - Policy Letter 17-03 outlining assistance provided during Hurricane Harvey and Irma: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/resource/orr-populations-displaced-or-affected-by-hurricanes-harvey-and-irma>



ACF's Steady State *Preparation for Natural Disasters*

- Children's Bureau

- Section 422(b)(16) of the Social Security Act requires that state child welfare agencies have in place procedures explaining how the state programs assisted under title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2, and title IV-E, would respond to a disaster. State plans submitted to obtain title IV-B funding describe how a state would:
 - Identify, locate, and continue availability of services for children under state care or supervision who are displaced or adversely affected by a disaster;
 - Respond, as appropriate, to new child welfare cases in areas adversely affected by a disaster, and provide services in those cases;
 - Remain in communication with caseworkers and other essential child welfare personnel who are displaced because of a disaster;
 - Preserve essential program records;
 - Coordinate services and share information with other states.

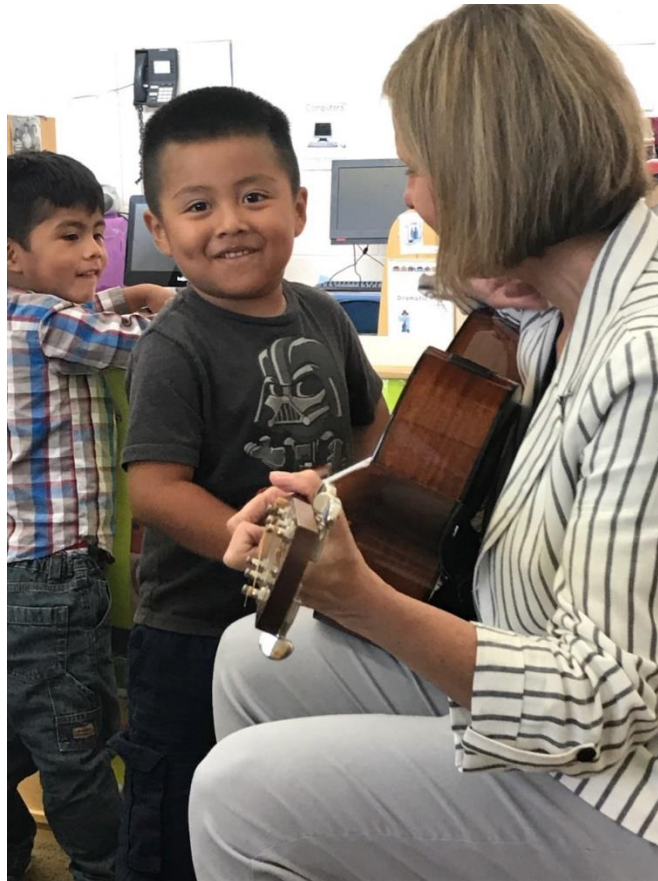


ACF's Steady State *Preparation for Natural Disasters*

- Office of Head Start
 - OHS's Emergency Preparedness Manual
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/emergency-preparedness-manual-early-childhood-programs.pdf>
 - Strong support from OHS to the grantee/program to create plans
 - Specific to location (Midwest: tornadoes and blizzards; California: fires, earthquakes, mudslides...)
 - Family engagement systems established
 - Mental health systems imbedded
 - Community connections established
 - New construction preparation (New Jersey, Puerto Rico)



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