



## Reunification Services

FEMA is statutorily required to facilitate the reunification of unaccompanied minors with their custodial parents/legal guardians, as well as the voluntary reunification of adults with their families, during declared emergencies or major disasters. Working collaboratively with whole community partners, FEMA Mass Care/Emergency Assistance (MC/EA) develops procedures, identifies best practices and provides resources to strengthen reunification services. FEMA coordinates deployment of national reunification resources, both human and material, to support state-led reunification task forces as well as field operations. There is a cost share for some resources.

### Authorities

- Stafford Act §: 403; 6 U.S.C. §§ 774-5.
- U.S.C. 6 Sections: 774, 775

### Responsibilities of FEMA MC/EA Section

#### Pre-Incident

- Provide technical assistance for:
  - the development of federal and state reunification plans, training materials, exercises, and other tools to strengthen and enhance the nation's capacity to support reunification activities; incorporate best practices and lessons learned into preparedness activities;
  - the establishment of state reunification task forces;
  - the inclusion of subject matter expertise to coordinate planning efforts with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to expand national reunification capability.
- Develop contracts, pre-scripted mission assignments (PSMA), agreements, and other mechanisms to provide resources, programs, and services for reunification during disaster response activities.
- Provide subject matter expertise to internal partners, including the Response, Recovery, Logistics and National Preparedness Directorates, Public Assistance, the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination, External Affairs, the Office of the Senior Law Enforcement Advisor and the National Processing Service Centers.
- Identify communication mechanisms, including but not limited to new reunification systems, current and emerging social media tools and communication technologies, and private/public communications equipment.
- Develop agreements and procedures to utilize or coordinate the use of these systems, and incorporate them into plans and procedures in order to provide access for disaster survivors to a wide range of communications methods in a timely manner.

## Response and Recovery

- Coordinate with other federal agencies, declared states, NGOs, and other partners to monitor, analyze, validate, and provide human and material resource support, programs, and services for reunification.
- Provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance in the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC), Joint Field Office (JFO), State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and other field offices.
- Provide staff and resources to support field operations, state-led reunification task forces, and related task forces, such as a Children and Youth Task Force.
- Assist the state in the implementation of coordinated and integrated reunification services system for evacuees and survivors.
- Provide resources, including equipment, material, supplies, facilities, and personnel, to support state operations through mission assignments, contracts, and other mechanisms.
- Provide tools and resources to assist the state in the implementation of integrated strategies and processes for coordinated reunification operations.
- Monitor, analyze, validate, and provide support to states on reunification activities.
- Identify resource requirements, shortfalls, and limiting factors.
- Coordinate public messaging with reunification partners and FEMA External Affairs.
- Activate the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Blanket Purchasing Agreement to stand up the National Emergency Child Locator Center (NECLC) and deploy Team Adam upon request from the declared state.
- Provide support to law enforcement missing persons operations and agencies tasked with child reunification during response and transition to recovery as needed and requested.

## Triggers for Implementation

- Major Disaster Declaration (that includes Public Assistance)
- Emergency Disaster Declaration
- Note: either declaration must include Sec. 403(3)(b) Emergency Protective Measures

## Tools and Resources

- [Multi-Agency Reunification Services Plan Template](#)
- [Post Disaster Reunification of Children - A Nationwide Approach](#)
- [National Center for Missing & Exploited Children](#)
  - [National Emergency Child Locator Center Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Unaccompanied Minors Registry](#)
- [American Red Cross Safe and Well](#)

## Contracts and Agreements

Contract/Agreement	Type
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/Contract
Corporation for National and Community Service	PSMA
Department of Justice	MOA
Department of Health and Human Services	MOA
American Red Cross	MOA/ Interagency Agreement

*FEMA's Mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

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