



## The Child Care Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan Webinar Series: Overview, Key Points, and Materials

This 2014 six-part series explored the emergency planning framework developed by the Office of Child Care (OCC) to provide support to State and Territory staff members in convening, discussing, and developing or revising their child care program plans for the preparation, response, and recovery from emergencies and disasters. The development of a meaningful, specific, comprehensive emergency preparedness and response (EPR) plan is a complex and time-consuming undertaking that involves the engagement of numerous stakeholders. Webinars included presentations by expert speakers from national organizations and experienced public officials (from Federal and State governments) and featured resources developed by the Child Care State Systems Specialist Network (CCSSSN).

### The Importance of an EPR Plan

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Here are four specific reasons to highlight the importance of an EPR plan for child care at the state and community levels:

1. Planning minimizes the likelihood of injuries and death in children, who are particularly vulnerable in disasters.
2. Preparation can minimize the psychological impact and trauma and can promote resilience in children and adults.
3. Providers may be able to reduce the amount of revenue lost and liability through planning and preparation.
4. Child care is a vital service to the community, so the speed at which child care programs are able to recover affects the overall recovery of the community.

### Updated Resources

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- *Resource Guide: Emergency Preparedness and Response Resources for Child Care Programs;*
- *CCDF Agency Emergency Preparedness Planning Tool: Coordination with Key Partners;* and
- *Helping Children Recover from Exposure to Trauma: Resources for Child Care Providers and Parents.*

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## Webinar Content

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The Webinar content was developed to allow state and territory staff and others to view all sessions or only those that are most relevant to the development and revision of their jurisdictions' EPR plan.

### ■ **Session #1 - Creating a Plan for Child Care Services: Coordinating With Key Partners and Emergency Management Agencies**

This Webinar explored why the CCDF lead agency should invest time and resources in development of a comprehensive plan.

#### ◆ Key Points included:

- What a comprehensive plan should include and who should participate in the development of a comprehensive plan;
- Developing geo-mapping, communication, and process protocols (including systems for responding to OCC requests for information); and.
- A brief discussion of Children and Youth Task Forces in Disasters

### ■ **Session #2 - Subsidy Issues: Planning for the Continuation of Child Care Services**

This Webinar provided state examples and described resources to assist States and Territories in developing policies and processes related to the subsidy administration of the EPR Plan.

#### ◆ Key Points included:

- State subsidy program continuity planning and response
- Flexibility in subsidy policy to support response and recovery
- NJ example of subsidy response following Superstorm Sandy in 2012

### ■ **Session #3 - Licensing Regulations and Policies for Emergency Preparedness and Response**

This Webinar described a range of available model resources and provided state examples to help States and Territories strengthen licensing regulations concerning emergency preparedness.

#### ◆ Key Points included:

- Resources to support revision of regulations that protect children during an emergency
- Provider requirements during a disaster (e.g., reporting, closure, and waivers) presented by Arizona and Massachusetts
- Texas presentation on policies and protocols: Facilities Assessment and Reporting
- Florida provided information on their continuity of licensing operations: succession planning, facilities, IT, priorities for staffing, experiences

### ■ **Session #4 - Training and Technical Assistance Supports for Child Care Providers**

This Webinar highlighted state and national examples and considerations of training and technical assistance supports offered to child care providers.

#### ◆ Key Points included:

- Kentucky and Maryland shared training approaches and templates used with child care providers
- Requirements, approaches, and resources for provider training were highlighted by the State presenters including Indiana

- Child Care Aware of America provided information and resources about the role of child care resource and referral partners with findings from a CCRR survey about training topics they provide, EPR issues/challenges for child care providers, and areas of additional training and TA needs

#### ■ **Session #5 - Response, Recovery, and Rebuilding**

This Webinar highlighted state and national examples and considerations regarding response, recovery, and rebuilding following disasters and emergencies.

◆ Key Points included:

- State staff described lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy and local CCR&R staff and a provider discussed their experiences following Hurricane Isaac
- Assistance available through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Save the Children's Child Friendly Spaces program, and providing child care in shelters.

#### ■ **Session #6 - Recovery: Responding to Trauma**

◆ This Webinar focused on the importance of reducing the impact and trauma resulting from emergencies and disasters and provided examples of specific state and local response and a discussion of resiliency.

◆ Key Points included:

- Introduction to children's mental health and the impact of disaster-related trauma specifically Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)
- State and local experiences from the 2011 Joplin, MO, tornado related to the development of the Children and Youth Task Force in Disaster – a model for addressing the mental health needs of children and youth following trauma
- Save the Children's Psycho-Social Programs to support resiliency and recovery

**Find these resources and the Webinar presentations at**  
<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/emergency-preparedness-0>.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact us at [OCCTANetwork@icfi.com](mailto:OCCTANetwork@icfi.com).

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