

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Chicago 2016

The Black Community is not prepared in the event of a major disaster. Thousands would be negatively impacted because of a lack of preparation (remember Katrina) and resource allocation. As a community, we must consistently pursue resources and local planning to safely mobilize our community, and recover successfully in the aftermath.

Emergency Preparedness education must be the first order of business in the African-American community. The community's ability to address issues, concerns, problems of disasters, health epidemics and public safety is critical. An increase of African-American professionals and policy makers within the emergency management industry is crucial to ensure the resiliency of the black community. To establish this goal, we must create a professional training institute for professionals, volunteers and community leadership funded by public and private entities. This institute would include an applied research unit to develop best practices, engage and collaborate with leadership and residents of the community in times of disasters, health epidemics, and public safety (including crime) threats.

Public Policy Recommendations

1. Review, create, support legislation that addresses emergency preparedness, decision making and emergency management implementation and its impact on the Black community.
2. To advance additional African-American professionals and policy makers within the emergency management industry with a strong emphasis on community orientation.
3. Establish an Emergency Management Institute for professional emergency management training funded by public and private entities.
4. Advocate, organize and mobilize the African-American community around public policy issues of emergency preparedness, decision making and emergency management implementation.

Community Strategy

1. Establish a formal Black community emergency response network (individuals, organizations, and service providers who are responsible for community emergency preparedness).
2. Monitor government agencies involved with emergency management to assure their due diligence as it relates to the African-American community.
3. Advocate for community education training for disaster management, recovery and rehabilitation.
4. Develop quarterly community education and training for emergency preparedness and require annual community participation and training.

5. Develop and support an emergency professional training institute.
6. Create local disaster preparedness information network in strategic locations around community. i.e. (barber shop and hair salon, schools, hospitals, theaters etc.).

What the Community Can Do

1. Block Clubs develop disaster preparedness plans to identify evacuation and safety zones etc.
2. Identify various community institutions, agencies, organizations and individuals as part of a collaborative team that creates, organizes and disseminates disaster preparedness plans as well as train local communities for appropriate response.
3. Hold elected officials accountable for supporting local disaster preparedness plans.

What Individuals Can Do

1. Attend/support disaster preparedness sessions in your locality.
2. Create family disaster preparedness plan delineating communications, evacuation and survival processes.
3. Access local disaster preparedness plans for your community.
4. Test/practice the plan at regular intervals.
5. Seek out and engage disaster preparedness processes.