

Resilient Community Volunteer Planning

Association of Washington Cities
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Seattle Office of Emergency Management
Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant
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8 Puget Sound Counties

The Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Pilot Project focuses on building the core capabilities of Community Resilience, Planning, and Mass Care for community's who are the most impacted.

- \$1.4 Million from Department of Homeland Security – FEMA
- \$25,000 mini-grants to collective qualitative and quantitative data collection
- High Social Vulnerability communities
- Planning with communities for communities
- Community-informed, led and operated



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Whole Community Involvement & Coordination

Everyone is an **emergency manager** when they need to be.

Whole Community planning process with the goal of planning **with** the community and not **for** them.

Coordinate operations for an environment with extremely limited mobility and communications.

Planning directly with community to develop communications strategies.

Build relationships with service providers and trusted community members.



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Communication & Outreach | Education & Skill Building | Partnership Building

*For example, some community organizations are willing and likely to shelter community members; however, they **may not have the training or resources required** to safely operate a shelter...*

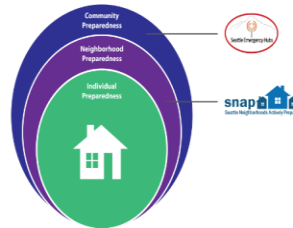
- Address **challenges** reaching all our most at risk and vulnerable populations.
- Address **all hazards** and their impacts specific to communities.
- Identify **resources and gaps** in communities, as well as surrounding businesses.
- Community **preparedness training** for an isolation phase of at least 2 weeks.
- Closing gaps requires working with the community, and **maximizing use of all resources** within communities, whether from community organizations, service providers, or local businesses
- Understand the **communities' hidden talents** - personal experiences, trainings, certifications
- Engage local **Emergency Management** offices

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Free Public Trainings from Seattle OEM

- **Community Safety Ambassadors**
 - Basic & Advanced Preparedness
 - Basic First Aid and CPR
 - Emergency Kit Building
 - Workplace & School Preparedness
 - Light Search and Rescue
 - Small Fire Suppression and Utility Control
 - Hazard-specific Preparedness
- **SNAP - Seattle Neighborhoods Actively Prepare**
- **Scalable Resilience Hubs and Pods**

Community Emergency Hubs



What is a Community Emergency Hub?

Community Emergency Hubs are places where people gather after a disaster to help each other. Hubs serve as a central gathering place among neighbors in homes, apartments and condominiums, some who have organized using SNAP.

Currently there are 135 hubs designated throughout the city. Each hub reflects the unique character of the community they serve, and may look different from location to location.



Puget Sound Resilience Hubs

Creating year-round, community-informed resilience strategies and locations

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Training community members to be emergency volunteers as best practice

1. **Faster Response Times** – Locals are often the first and only responders for hours or even days. Local volunteers can respond quickly in emergencies before responders arrive.
2. **Better Community Resilience** – They're prepared not just to react, but to **prevent escalation of emergencies** through early action and informed decisions. Prepared communities can handle disasters more effectively and recover faster.
3. **Local Knowledge** – Local knowledge also improves **coordination with emergency services** when they arrive. Community members know the area, resources, and vulnerable populations, improving response efforts.
4. **Increased Capacity** – Trained volunteers can help with **logistics, shelter management, communication, distribution of aid**, and more. Volunteers support emergency services, especially during large-scale events.
5. **Cost-Effective** – **Volunteer-based models are scalable**: more people can be trained over time, and in diverse roles, depending on community needs. Training locals is often cheaper than deploying external resources.
6. **Empowerment and Engagement** – It encourages civic responsibility and builds stronger, more connected communities. People feel **empowered and valued** when they can contribute meaningfully to their community's safety.

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