

WE'RE READY

Functional Needs for persons with
limitations (Information for first
responders and other care givers)

A collaborative project in the state of North Dakota. Partners are the SCDD,
NDCPD, and ND P&A

**Project Coordinator 1-800-233-1737 or
ndcpd@minotstateu.edu**

**Material adapted in
cooperation with C-MIST
project**

12/10/07



Definitions

- Sensory Disability—blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment.
- Physical Disability—a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying.
- Mental Disability—individual has a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting 6 months or more that made it difficult to perform the following activities: learning, remembering, or concentrating.
- Self-Care Disability—Difficulty dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home.

Communication

Potential Disabilities

Who is included

- People with vision, hearing, speech, or cognitive impairments of all ages.
- Non-English Speakers.
- People who lack or don't know how to use technology (Cell phones, computer, adaptive speech or hearing equipment).

Sensory Disability
Mental Disability

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Issues for individual

- HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS
- SEEING SIGNAGE
- READING WRITTEN MATERIALS AND INFORMATION
- ACCESSING TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, OR DEVICES
- COMMUNICATING INFORMATION AND NEEDS

Responders should

- Read information or directions to individuals
- Have material in alternative formats, large print, brail, other languages, etc
- Assist person in making calls or contact of persons that may assist them during crisis
- Be sure to have the person's attention when talking to them, eye contact is important (individual may be a lip reader)

Supervision

Who is included

- People who decompensate because of transfer trauma & stressors that exceed ability to cope & function.
- Unaccompanied minors.
- People involved with the criminal justice system.
- People with conditions such as dementia, serious mental illness, Alzheimer's.

Potential Disabilities

- Mental Disability
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Disability

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Issues for individual

- Order and structure.
- Physical presence and attention from someone with specialized skills or knowledge.
- Security or assistance to protect the person or to protect others from the person.

Responders should

- Be sure to take charge of situation and direct person with concrete directions
- Do not leave this individual alone at any time
- Keep this person safe from others or protect others from this individual, use of their care staff or law enforcement staff is encouraged
- Keep the individual with familiar staff, other residents, or surroundings as much as possible (things)

Transportation

Who is included

- People who cannot drive due to a disability, age, poverty, addictions and legal restrictions.
- Zero vehicle households

Potential Disabilities

- Mental Disability
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Disability

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Issues for individual

- Replacing lost or damaged vehicle
- Access to transportation
- Access to accessible transportation when needed
- Driver if appropriate

Responders should

- Make the individual aware of transportation nearby
- Call in accessible means of transportation where needed
- Take the individual to safety when appropriate
- Provide information on all transportation for citizens during disaster
- Work with local emergency planners to develop plan for transportation needs

Medical

Potential Disabilities

Who is included

Medical Disability
Physical Disability

- People who have unstable, chronic, terminal, or contagious conditions requiring support, intervention or treatment

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Issues for individual

- Managing unstable, chronic, terminal or contagious health conditions that require observation or ongoing treatment.
- Managing medications, intravenous (IV) therapy, tube feeding, vital signs.

Responders should

- Take care to not expose themselves or others to contagious conditions, use universal precautions and alert receiving staff
- Be sure to move person to a shelter that can manage these conditions and have staff trained in special care procedures
- Ask individual what care they require, what they can do for themselves and what they need assistance with

Independence

Who is included

- People who rely on medications, equipment, other persons, assistance animals, or centers to maintain independence.

Potential Disabilities

- Self-care Disability
- Physical Disability
- Sensory Disability

FUNCTIONAL NEEDS

Issues for individual

- Replacing lost or damaged equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, scooters, canes, assistive devices or tools, glasses)
- Replacing essential medications (psychotropic, epilepsy, cardiac, etc.)
- Replacing essential supplies (catheters, ostomy supplies, etc)
- Replacing lost support or assistance from family, friends, or others.
- Replacing assistance animals.

Responders should

- Be sure to take any assistive equipment with during evacuation, this includes animals.
- Ask individual if they have all of their medication and make sure to have this when leaving
- Be sure to move to a location where external support can be offered to individual, centers that have supplies for special care needs
- Either contact family or care-givers for individual or be sure to address this by passing the information along to shelter staff