

2023 CCD Emergency Management Task Force Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description

The Emergency Management Task Force (TF) advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities as it pertains to policies and services before, during, and after disasters to ensure all people have access to needed support and services. This might include reaching out to applicable federal agencies such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and the White House Domestic Policy Council. The TF also educates and advocates to Congress for necessary legislation to provide important services during disasters, and to ensure that people with disabilities are not left out of pertinent policies. The TF also monitors active disaster impacts on people with disabilities and disability discrimination.

2. 2023 Task Force Issues

a) First of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023:

The TF promoted the reintroduction of the Real Emergency Access for Aging and Disability Inclusion for Disasters Act (REAADI), S. 1049 / H.R. 2371. The TF advocated for the introduction to be early in the Session and it was introduced on March 29, 2023, in the Senate and the House, we kept in constant communication with the applicable committees, and provided online web content to promote the bill.

The TF also advocated for REAADI for Disasters Act to be included as a section of the Pandemic and all Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) - Reauthorization. One section of REAADI made it into PAHPA, Section 8: Crisis Standards of Care and Civil Rights Laws.

b) Second of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023:

The committee advocated for the reintroduction of the Disaster Relief Medicaid Act, S. 3120 / H.R. 6029. First, the TF continued dialog with Casey's and Panetta's assigned staff throughout the year as a date for introduction was assigned. DRMA was introduced on October 24, 2023, with the addition that allows the provisions, in addition to a presidentially declared disaster, to include a presidentially declared national emergency and a HHS Secretary declared public health emergency. TF members have also developed web content to educate about the bill.

c) Third of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023:

The TF supported, with CCD's HHS 504 comments, drafting Section B.5.6.4 of the comments written in response to the U.S Department of Health and Human Service Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This section raises the issue that disasters are a critical juncture where people with disabilities are institutionalized. It was expressed that there is a great need to protect people with disabilities from institutionalization and other discrimination under section 504 during disasters.

2. 2024 Task Force Issues

- a) The Emergency Management TF intends to educate about the need to pass READI for Disasters Act and DRMA.
- b) Monitor other federal legislation that impacts people with disabilities such as the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act and others and support their passage.
- c) The Task Force will continue to meet with federal agencies with enforcement obligations to urge for immediate and ongoing monitoring and compliance with all relevant laws and regulations throughout the disaster phases.

3. Emergency Management Task Force Meetings

Last Wednesday of the month at 2:00pm ET

Co-Chairs

- Germán Parodi, The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
- Shaylin Sluzalis, The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
- Marcie Roth, World Institute on Disability

Emergency Management Task Force Webpage Link: http://www.c-c-d.org/rubriques.php?rub=taskforce.php&id_task=3