

# The FEMA Crisis Counseling Program



Disaster Behavioral Health Webinar  
December 8, 2010

# Covered today:



- What is the FEMA Crisis Counseling Program (CCP)?
- When is FEMA CCP funding available?
- Who is served by the FEMA CCP?
- How do we get FEMA CCP funding?
- What services are funded with a FEMA CCP grant?
- Recent changes

# What is the FEMA Crisis Counseling Program?



- Authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act)
- Funded by FEMA
- Administered through partnership of FEMA and SAMHSA Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)

# What is the FEMA CCP? (cont.)



- **Mission:** to assist individuals and communities to recover from the challenging effects of natural and human-caused disasters.
- **Key principles:**
  - Strengths-based/empowering
  - Outreach oriented
  - Anonymous
  - Conducted in nontraditional settings
  - Culturally competent
  - Designed to strengthen existing community support
  - Flexible

# What is the FEMA CCP? (cont.)



- **Goals:**
  - Use public health approach
  - Assess emotional needs, provide support, and refer when needed
  - Assess tangible needs and refer
  - Deliver services and interventions
  - Partner with other agencies
  - Ensure program legacy

# When is FEMA CCP funding available?



- State is eligible to apply for a FEMA CCP grant after a Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance (IA)
  - Individual Assistance declaration is less common than a Public Assistance declaration (PA) which provides funding for clean-up and public infrastructure damage

# Who is served by the FEMA CCP?



- Provides short-term behavioral health support when response needs exceed the State's capacity
- Only counties included in the IA declaration can be served through the CCP
  - Serves the general population in the area declared not targeted by other programs in Nebraska:
    - ✦ Nebraska or local department CISM serves first responders
    - ✦ American Red Cross serves own volunteers, and affected persons for a short time period (days to weeks)
  - Regions may provide services to undeclared but affected counties with resources other than FEMA CCP funding (volunteers)

# How do we get FEMA CCP funding?



- **Two CCP grant types are available:**
  - **Immediate Services Program (ISP)**
    - ✦ Must apply within 14 days of presidential declaration
    - ✦ Reimburses eligible services and provides funding for new services up to 60 days after the presidential declaration
  - **Regular Services Program (RSP)**
    - ✦ Must apply within 60 days of presidential declaration
    - ✦ Provides funding for new services up to 9 months after awarded
    - ✦ Can request a grant extension on ISP to cover time from 60 days until RSP is awarded



# How do we get FEMA CCP funding? (cont.)



- **What information is needed for grant applications?**
  - Description of event & physical damage
  - Social, economic, & demographic characteristics of affected population (helps with plan of services, below)
    - ✦ Include especially affected or hard-to-reach populations, such as children, migrant workers, refugee populations, etc.
  - Location affected & damage assessment (obtained from NEMA)
  - Description of behavioral health response activities from date of incident
  - State and local resources and capabilities
  - Plan of services (to be supervised by Region)
  - Budget (for State administration & for local service provision)

# What services are funded with a FEMA CCP grant?



- **Targeting individuals/families:**
  - Brief educational or supportive contacts (less than 5 minutes; utilizes psychological first aid skills)
  - Assessment, referral, and resource linkage
  - Individual and/or group crisis counseling
- **Targeting community:**
  - Hotline and web-based access to information
  - Media messaging and risk communication
  - Development & distribution of educational materials
  - Public education presentations/discussions
  - Community networking
  - Support groups

# What does the grant require of us?



- **Trainings:**
  - Core Content Training (ISP)
  - Transition to RSP
  - Mid-Year
  - Anniversary Training
  - Phase-Down
  - Others – “Skills for psychological recovery”; cultural; youth; etc.
- **Evaluation & Forms**
  - Encounter logs & tallies (individual & group encounters, brief educational & supportive contacts)
  - Assessment & Referral tool
  - Surveys (participant & service provider feedback)
- **Quarterly Reports (from State)**

# Recent Changes



- **Description of event now only needed for RSP application**
  - Still recommend starting this at time of ISP – when event details and initial behavioral impact are fresh in your mind
    - ✦ Newspaper articles to help with description and personal stories are more plentiful early
  - Add ongoing details as they emerge
- **Formula for calculating FTE for of local Outreach Workers, Crisis Counselors, Admin**
  - 1 crisis counselor FTE to every 300 people to be served
  - 1 team leader FTE for 4 to 8 crisis counselors
  - Admin (program manager, data entry, fiscal, etc.) maximum is 20% of total local FTE request

# Questions?



## State Contacts:

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