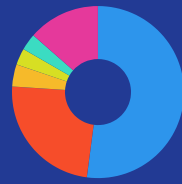


# What do local emergency preparedness staff think about disability inclusion?



61 people from 14 states took our survey.

- Local Emergency Managers/Planners
- Local Public Health Personnel
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Red Cross or Citizen Corps volunteer
- Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel
- Local Community Health Care Provider
- Other (VOAD, Disability Advocate, Consultant, State Access and Functional Needs Manager, firefighter)

## We asked respondents about resources they used to create local emergency plans.

Community members with disabilities were ranked as the **most useful** planning resource BUT **Only 25%** of respondents engaged community members with disabilities as local planning resources

**The most used resources were from:**  
Emergency management organizations  
Public health departments  
Other government agencies

## What would make local emergency planning more disability-inclusive?

- Making emergency communications accessible
- Identifying disability community partners
- Including people with disabilities in preparedness drills and exercises
- Training on access and functional needs
- Funding and personnel increase

## What's blocking disability inclusion in local emergency planning?

- The disability community lacks understanding about:
- Emergency planning process & emergency management system
  - Emergency manager & public health preparedness roles
- Local emergency preparedness staff lack understanding about:
- People with disabilities' access & functional needs
  - How to include people with disabilities in whole community planning

## Local emergency preparedness staff tell us how the disability community can support local whole community planning.

*They want more...*

- Dialogue among disability stakeholders and local emergency and public health preparedness staff**  
"Involve local emergency managers. Don't go around them."  
"It's a two-way street. We need to keep people with disabilities in mind and they need to make sure we know what their needs are."
- Training and education**  
"Plans need to be presented in various formats, like audio, close captioned, large print, simple vocabulary."
- Funding and staff capacity**  
"More funding requirements will encourage local emergency managers to create inclusive plans."
- "How-to" Resources**  
"Plans may fail to address all possibilities in a succinct fashion, and we end up ignoring them and responding to the needs as they arise. So planning toolkits, templates and job aids would help."
- Expand partnerships**  
"Even if they are short on time, building partnerships and connecting organizations to participate in existing planning committees or structures can be manageable for a local Emergency Manager."

Responding to the stated needs, Prepared4ALL identifies key strategies and values to build partnerships between local disability affiliates and emergency management and public health preparedness entities.

