Include Housing & Homelessness in Disaster Planning

People experiencing homelessness may encounter barriers to emergency information, evacuation, accessible shelter, essential services, disaster assistance, and recovery resources.

REDUCE ACCESS BARRIERS
Plan for flexible approaches to identification and residency verification.

SUPPORT ACCESSIBILITY
Consider disability access, language access, transportation, accommodations, and communication needs.

MAINTAIN HEALTH AND MEDICATION ACCESS
Plan for medication replacement, medical transportation, behavioral health support, and continuity of care.

USE TRUSTED COMMUNICATION CHANNELS
Include outreach teams, peer navigators, shelters, libraries, service providers, and other trusted messengers.

COORDINATE ACROSS SYSTEMS
Engage emergency management, VOADs, homeless coalitions, housing and service providers, healthcare partners, and community organizations.

TRAIN, PRACTICE, AND IMPROVE
Exercise plans, train staff in trauma-informed approaches, identify gaps, and update procedures.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Include homelessness-system partners and people with lived experience before plans, procedures, and response strategies are finalized.

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