



ACF TRI-REGIONAL 2009 HUMAN SERVICES IN DISASTERS VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP FORUM

Summary

In response to the demand for information and communication about immediate issues regarding human services in disasters, the Administration for Children and Families is proposing to host the **2009 ACF Tri-Regional Human Services in Disasters Virtual Leadership Forum** using the latest available technology to reach the greatest number community leaders that provide services to vulnerable children and families in ACF Regions VI, IV and III.

Purpose

This event will build on the success of other ACF sponsored events that brought together the leadership of key emergency management and human service agencies and non-profit organizations. The new relationships and the understanding of roles and responsibilities of human service providers were evident in the response to 2008 Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. The purpose of the 2009 ACF Tri-Regional Human Services in Disasters Virtual Leadership Forum will be to continue and strengthen these leadership relationships and to discuss important issues facing human service providers preparing for emergency events. This virtual event is integral to promoting communications at the highest levels between governmental human services agencies, non-profit community based organizations, and the emergency management communities for effective responses during crisis events.

Objectives

Objectives for the 2009 ACF Tri-Regional Human Services in Disasters Virtual Leadership Forum include:

- Building and strengthening the levels of communication among community leaders around the delivery of quality human services in emergency events especially with regard to the H1N1 & seasonal flu preparedness and hurricane preparedness;
- Increasing preparedness of local communities, non-profit human service providers, and human service grantees by communicating Agency priorities directly to community leadership officials;
- Conducting an information and learning event in a **green** environment to promote exchange of information and ideas over the exchange of paper; and
- Promoting on-going planning and evaluation efforts at the State, Tribal and Local government for the delivery of human services in times of disaster.

Virtual Site & Agenda

The date for this event is **September 9, 2009** to promote National Preparedness Month and to spotlight upcoming activities on the President's National Day of Service (9/11/2009).

This event will be a virtual event accessible by participants through webcasting technology. This technology will permit hundreds of participants to login and watch the speakers live. The broadcast will allow for viewer interaction and permit a limited amount of time for question and answers for more in-depth and relevant discussions. ACF Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that promote ACF priorities and initiatives will also be featured to allow for seamless transition between sessions.

The first half of the broadcast of the event will focus on messages from the leadership of HHS and ACF officials. During these broadcasts, viewers will hear about the priority this Administration places on assisting every sector of society, from federal, state and local government to individuals and families, and how to participate in planning efforts for seasonal flu and natural disasters.

The second half of the broadcast will be conducted by state, tribal, local government officials and faith-based and community leaders so that participants can gain more knowledge and better understanding of concepts. It is during these broadcasts that presentations will be made on promising practices and innovative approaches unique to the communities actually providing support and services during disasters.

All handouts will be provided in PDF format via email to registered participants.

Participants

Participants will pre-register for this no-cost event and provided a link to view the live event. Virtual event attendees are expected to be between 750 to 1,500 participants, including leadership officials from HHS and ACF, ACF grantees, state/tribal/local Emergency Management, state/tribal/local Human Services agencies, voluntary agencies, faith-based and community organizations, FEMA regional and headquarters program staff and other stakeholders.

Contacts

Further information and background can be provided by the following:

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