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# Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters

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**FEMA**

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# Purpose

- The purpose of this document is to provide planning guidance to emergency managers and shelter planners in meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters.

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# Scope

- This guidance was developed by the BCFS Emergency Services Division for FEMA to support local, tribal, State and Federal governments to integrate children and adults with and without disabilities who have access and functional needs into every aspect of emergency shelter planning and response.

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# Definition

- Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) are defined as services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in a general population shelter.

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# Premise

- Historically, resource gaps have existed in planning for and meeting access and functional needs in general population shelters causing individuals with functional needs to be sent to “special needs shelters”.

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# Key Considerations

- The importance of **advanced planning** in developing and implementing Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) in general population shelters cannot be overstated.
- In developing plans that will meet the needs of people requiring FNSS, emergency managers and shelter planners should **collaborate** with all relevant stakeholders

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# FNSS Planning

- Communication assistance and services when completing the shelter registration process and other forms or processes involved in applying for emergency-related benefits and services;
- DME, CMS and/or PAS that assist with activities of daily living;

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# FNSS Planning

- Access to medications to maintain health, mental health and function;
- Available sleeping accommodations (e.g., the provision of universal/accessible cots or beds and cribs; the placement, modification, or stabilization of cots or beds and cribs; the provision and installation of privacy curtains);



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# FNSS Planning

- Access to orientation and way-finding for people who are blind or have low vision;
- Assistance for individuals with cognitive and intellectual disabilities
- Auxiliary aids and services necessary to ensure effective communication for persons with communication disabilities;



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# FNSS Planning

- Access to an air-conditioned and/or heated environment (e.g. for those who cannot regulate body temperature) ;
- Refrigeration for medications;
- Availability of food and beverages appropriate for individuals with dietary restrictions (e.g., persons with diabetes or severe allergies to foods such as peanuts, dairy products and gluten);



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# FNSS Planning

- Providing food and supplies for assistance animals (e.g., dishes for food and water, arrangements for the hygienic disposal of waste; and, if requested, portable kennels for containment);
- Access to transportation for individuals who may require a wheelchair-accessible vehicle, individualized assistance and the transportation of equipment required in a shelter because of a disability;

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# FNSS Planning

- Assistance locating, securing and moving to post-disaster alternative housing, which includes housing that is accommodating to the individual's functional support needs (e.g., accessible housing, housing with adequate space to accommodate DME, or housing located in close proximity to public transportation, medical providers, job or educational facility, and/or retail stores);

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# FNSS Planning

- Assistance with activities of daily living such as:
  - eating
  - taking medication
  - dressing and undressing
  - transferring to and from a wheelchair or other mobility aid
  - walking
  - stabilization
  - bathing
  - toileting
  - communicating



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## FNSS Guidance “*Rollout*”

- Is being conducted in all 10 FEMA Regions to state stakeholders.
- Guidance has critical information for state and local jurisdiction stakeholders to utilize in planning and preparedness.

# Questions...

