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**Access and Functional Needs Subcommittee**

**of the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

**Vision:** Enhance the capability of individuals and families with access and functional needs to plan for, survive, and recover from emergencies and disasters in Missoula County.

**Mission:** Bring together public health, medical (assisted living, nursing homes, hospice, etc.), independent living, mental health, and other appropriate community support service agencies to assure that access and functional needs are included in all aspects of the Missoula City-County Health Department’s emergency planning process.

**Purpose:**

* Foster productive linkages and communication with people in Missoula County who have access and functional needs through collaborative planning among agencies and organizations providing services and support.
* Promote efforts to improve community resilience by coordinating with the Missoula Office of Emergency Services, the Missoula Disaster Planning Committee, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Missoula Health Emergency Advisory Team.
* Educate and assist City and County Officials and decision makers in the public and private sectors to incorporate access and functional needs into all preparedness, response and recovery policies and procedures.
* Support the establishment and training of a Functional Assessment Services Team to address access and functional needs during response to emergencies and disasters affecting Missoula County.

**Definition:**

The term “populations with access and functional needs” is defined as people who may haveadditional needs before, during, and after an incident in functional areas including but not limited to: Communication, Medical care, maintaining Independence, Services/support, and Transportation (C-MIST). Individuals in need of additional response and recovery assistance may include those who:

* have disabilities (visual, hearing, mobility, intellectual)
* live in institutionalized settings
* are elderly
* are children
* are from diverse cultures
* have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking
* are transportation disadvantaged
* require service animals and/or assisted technologies/devices

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