

OHIO VOAD ACTIVATION/REFERRAL PROCEDURES FOR NON-FEMA DECLARED DISASTERS

(Effective: May 18, 2016)

I. The Mission of Ohio VOAD is:

To bring together voluntary organizations active in disaster services and foster effective response to the people of Ohio in time of disaster through:

- ❖ Cooperation: Through interdependence between/among Ohio VOAD members, to generate resources and share information in response to disaster challenges. Sharing the capacities, resources, and abilities of each organization to respond to disaster – updating and maintaining that understanding. Working in concert with all members before, during, and after the disaster.

- ❖ Communication: Through quarterly meetings and networking among our member organizations to maintain open and on-going information sharing through:
 - Internet email
 - An active website
 - Conference calls
 - Publication of minutes, training manuals, and disaster assessment and response reports
 - Schedules meeting

- ❖ Coordination: Through commitments to effective responses to disaster survivors by matching services to their unmet needs with:
 - Advanced planning of the disaster response process
 - Preparation of disaster response resources – knowing who has what and where
 - Equipping the membership to operate in a coordinated process at the point of a disaster

- ❖ Collaboration: Through working with the Ohio & county EMAs, FEMA, and other organizations to respond to specific disasters. Types of Services Provided
 - Preparedness and/or mitigation
 - Mass care
 - Emergency assistance and casework
 - Emotional and/or spiritual care
 - Recovery

- Donations management
- Outreach and/or information and referral
- Animals and pets services

II. Article II of Ohio VOAD Bylaws. PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be to coordinate voluntary organizations active in disaster response to foster more effective response to the people of Ohio in times of disaster.

Ohio VOAD seeks to facilitate the availability of needed services and to encourage uniform, impartial provision of these services.

Ohio VOAD, as a state chapter of National VOAD, is fully activated when the Ohio EMA designates a CAS II.

III. When disaster strikes, the following steps are recommended for implementation:

- Step 1: County EMA is contacted by person(s) impacted by disaster and seeking assistance. Person(s) might be directed to EMA by 211 service (where available).
- Step 2: County EMA completes private sector damage assessments, determining if there is a need for supplemental resources to assist citizens with recovery. Local governments will determine individually the need for emergency proclamation.
- Step 3: County EMA or Ohio EMA may contact Ohio VOAD (using the contact tree below) to provide leadership to organize local response and recovery efforts. Ohio VOAD may be contacted to provide leadership to organize local recovery efforts of faith-based organizations, social service agencies, and non-governmental agencies:

Referral procedures should be initiated at the local level, referring families in need to local organizations, such as long term recovery committees, community action committees, and ministerial associations. Ohio VOAD recommends using local 211 services for initial intake and referrals of person(s) impacted based on disaster related needs.

When invited or when reported damage data indicates a need for coordinated response, a representative from Ohio VOAD will be contacted by the county EMA director to activate Ohio VOAD involvement. Ohio VOAD representative(s) will meet with local organizations in the disaster

impacted area and provide the leadership (as requested) to insure that local organizations are able to meet the needs of the families impacted.

- ❖ First contact: Mary Bates, 740-509-1132, batesm55@gmail.com
- ❖ Second contact: Erin Cordle, 614-570-2950, ecordle@columbuscatholic.org
- ❖ Third contact: Brenda Hostetler, 330-930-0506, secretary@ohiovoad.org

If local organizations are not able to meet the needs of families impacted, then a request for assistance through state and/or national VOAD support will be issued.

- Step 4: If the county EMA director opens an emergency operations center (EOC), a representative from Ohio VOAD will be assigned to be the primary contact. If deemed appropriate by the county EMA director and the Ohio VOAD primary contact, every effort will be made to provide staffing at the county EOC (either in person or by telecommunications).

Ohio VOAD agencies provide early response volunteers and long-term recovery volunteers at Ohio EMA CAS II.

While the primary purpose of Ohio VOAD is long term recovery (rebuilding and repairing), there are member agencies of Ohio VOAD who provide early response/relief and they may be activated in undeclared disasters or county declared disasters, for example:

- Southern Baptists for chain saw teams, child care, debris removal
- Seventh Day Adventist Community Services for donations management through National Donations Management Network
- Catholic Charities and Lutheran Social Services for case management
- United Church of Christ, Lutheran Disaster Response, United Methodists, and many others provide skilled volunteers for response and relief efforts.
- Numerous faith-based organizations (Protestant, Catholic, Buddhist, Muslim, and Jewish) provide humanitarian and emotional care
- Service organizations such as Ohio Eagles provide response and relief support
- Social service organizations, such as community action committees
- Citizen Corps and CERT teams for Volunteer Reception Centers and management of spontaneous volunteers.