

MISSOURI

Highlights of State Council Activities

Missouri's Citizen Corps Program is coordinated through the Missouri State Citizen Council / Disaster Recovery Partnership (CCDRP). The CCDRP has a broad membership from the public and private sectors. This membership includes organizations such as state agencies, selected Federal agencies, faith-based organizations, disaster relief agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, advocacy organizations and other partners. The CCDRP meets at least quarterly, but much more frequently during disaster operations. The leadership of the State of Missouri is supportive of the CCDRP. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is the administrative lead with support from the Department of Public Safety. The CCDRP is included in the latest State Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) Strategic Plan as well in the latest donations and volunteer management plans and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). An Executive Order renewing the CCDRP is pending.

The CCDRP oversees and supports the distribution of State HSGP funds through a Funding Review Taskforce created by the CCDRP. Grant applications from local jurisdictions are checked for general grant compliance by SEMA then reviewed and rated by the CCDRP Funding Review Taskforce using criteria established by the CCDRP and the Taskforce. Awards are determined by ratings and assessments of each application. Approximately 80 percent of Citizen Corps funds are passed on to local jurisdictions.

The primary strategic focus is the integration of Citizen Council with community collaborative efforts such as Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs) and/or Long Term Recovery Committees (LTRCs) or other community collaborative efforts. Other areas of focus include: volunteer management capacity building, the integration of Citizen Corps programs such as Medical Reserve Corps into well-planned community emergency management systems, and the inclusion of Citizen Corps affiliate member organizations.

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Public Education and Outreach

Missouri Citizen Corps has engaged partner agencies in providing public education and outreach to Missouri residents. American Red Cross hosted the *Together We Prepare* campaign, while the MO Department of Health and Senior Services led the *Ready-in-3* campaign. Local Citizen Corps Councils have been in the forefront of public education and awareness efforts. Grant funding for local Councils emphasized outreach efforts to educate the public. The Independence, Missouri Council conducted regular community seminars on preparedness. In addition, the city staged interesting and participatory CERT exercises during large public events and festivals.

Training and Exercises

Missouri supported CERT training with Citizen Corps funds and other training funds. SEMA sponsored regular CERT Train-the-Trainer Courses. Missouri Citizen Corps sponsored volunteer management training and volunteer reception center exercises. Many local Citizen Corps programs have conducted special training and exercises for CERT including a full-scale exercise in the Greater St. Louis area. Plans to conduct exercises for Citizen Corps units have been overshadowed by recent disaster operations. These experiences have replaced planned exercises for the state and many local jurisdictions.

Volunteer Programs and Support

SEMA supports volunteer programs through the SEMA Statewide Volunteer Coordinator and Citizen Corps Coordinator – both of whom provide technical guidance and support to state and local organizations. In addition, SEMA conducted regular courses in volunteers and donations. Coordination of spontaneous volunteers is a particular area of expertise within SEMA and partner agencies.

Several CERT programs responded exceptionally well in recent disasters by supporting local emergency operations centers and spontaneous volunteer management operations. Four Medical Reserve Corps Teams are operating in Missouri and SEMA is supporting the expansion of the number, size and scope of these teams.

Support for Hurricane Katrina Response

Citizen Corps volunteers, especially those from the CERT program, were deployed to Hurricane Katrina / Rita operations through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and through direct hiring by FEMA. There were over 17,000 evacuees who made their way to Missouri and the Missouri CCDRP coordinated the response and relief efforts for those evacuees. Partner and affiliate agencies at the state level assisted the local Citizen Corps Councils with local relief and recovery operations. Regional mutual aid among local Citizen Corps programs greatly assisted the relief operations.

National Preparedness Month

For the past two years, Citizen Corps has supported National Preparedness Month in several ways. A statewide media campaign promoting preparedness was initiated through SEMA and focused on individual and family preparedness. A NPM launch event on the front lawn of the State Capitol was attended by the public and heavily covered by the media. The kick-off involved many displays, booths, Citizen Corps volunteers, CERT teams, state agencies, private agencies, demonstrations and exercises. Governor Matt Blunt and other high-ranking state officials gave an address during the event. The Missouri Baptist Convention conducted a mass feeding exercise.