

L. Vance Taylor, MA
Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs,
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Speaker Bio:

Luis “Vance” Taylor is the Chief of the Office of Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. Vance leads the team responsible for ensuring the needs of individuals with disabilities and persons with access or functional considerations are identified and integrated into the State’s emergency management systems before, during, and after disasters.

Vance was appointed by President Biden to serve as a member of the President's National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) in 2022. As a member of the NIAC, Vance advises the White House on how to reduce physical and cyber risks and how to improve the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure sectors.

Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Vance was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy as a child and uses a power wheelchair. He has worked in Washington, D.C. as an advisor for two different members of Congress, directed security policy at a national water association, and been a principal at a ranked homeland security and emergency management consulting firm. Vance is a nationally recognized public speaker and advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Vance has a Master’s degree in homeland security from the University of Connecticut and an undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University in communications. He is married to his sweetheart, Casey, and they have two wonderful daughters.

Vance and his family live in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Presentation:

**Developing Integrated Emergency Evacuation Plans that Address
Access and Functional Needs**

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and its Office of Access and Functional Needs (OAFN) work closely with community stakeholders to

turn the tide towards inclusive planning by identifying and integrating the needs of all Californians within the State's emergency management systems.

The evacuation plans and systems jurisdictions have traditionally designed, were developed by, and for, individuals who can walk and run. People with limited mobility or other access and functional needs have not typically been included in the planning process. The lack of inclusive planning created fundamental gaps in the ways many jurisdictions have addressed the issue of emergency evacuation with regard to the whole community. To turn the tide towards inclusive emergency management, it is essential to understand the needs of, and plan with, the access and functional needs community to develop successful evacuation plans and operations.

The term "access and functional needs" refers to individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities; older adults; children; people who live in institutionalized settings, are transportation disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency; face economic barriers; and persons in late stages of pregnancy.

This presentation will help turn the tide towards inclusion by empowering emergency managers with the guidance, best practices, and informational resources needed to develop and strengthen plans for the successful emergency evacuation of individuals with access and functional needs during disasters. It will also outline resources individuals with access and functional needs can use to develop personal evacuation plans that enhance their own safety, security, and health prior to, and during, disasters.