

*Community Recovery and  
Resilience:  
Why Children's Needs and  
Childcare Matter*

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# *Disasters Impact Childcare* *DRAMATICALLY!*



- Superstorm Sandy (2012)
  - 11,500 childcare programs in NY were impacted
  - 697 closed long-term

\* Data provided by ChildCare Aware of America (2017)

\* Photo courtesy of CNN

# *Disasters Impact Childcare*

## *DRAMATICALLY!*

- Louisiana Flooding (2016)
  - 88 childcare programs in Baton Rouge impacted, approximately 6,000 children



\* Data provided by ChildCare Aware of America (2017)

# *Disaster Impacts Childcare* *DRAMATICALLY!*



- Hurricane Matthew (2016)
  - Approximately 25% of childcare programs in Cumberland County, NC were affected (10,200 children)

\* Data provided by ChildCare Aware of America (2017)

\* Photo courtesy of CNN

# *Objectives*



- Explain how childcare impacts community recovery through illustration of the prosperity support pyramid
- Explain recovery options available to childcare
- Recommend ways to enable community recovery by enabling childcare recovery



# *Children are our most Vulnerable Population*



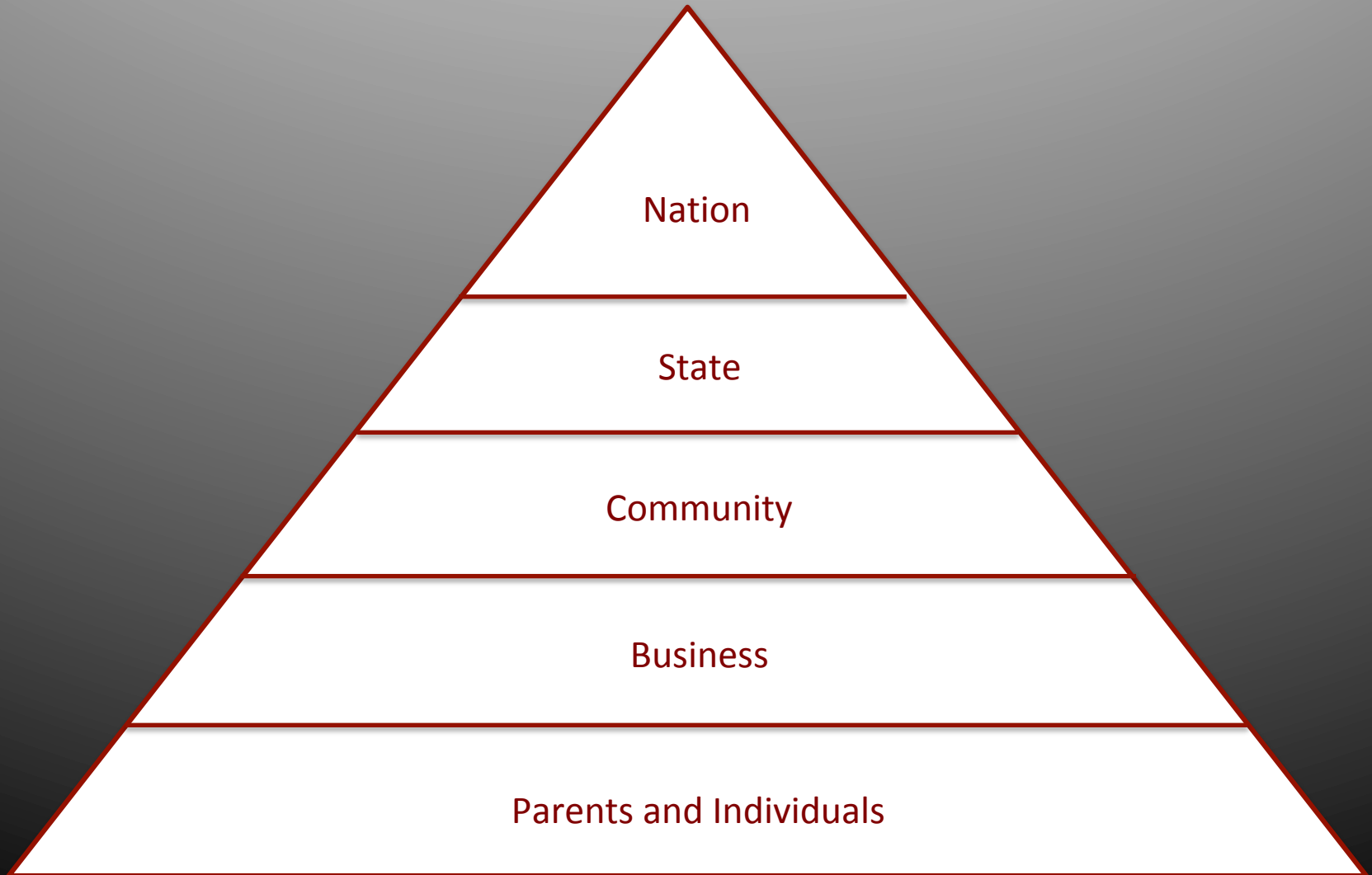
*Children make up almost 23%  
of the population in the United States*

# Children ARE at Risk



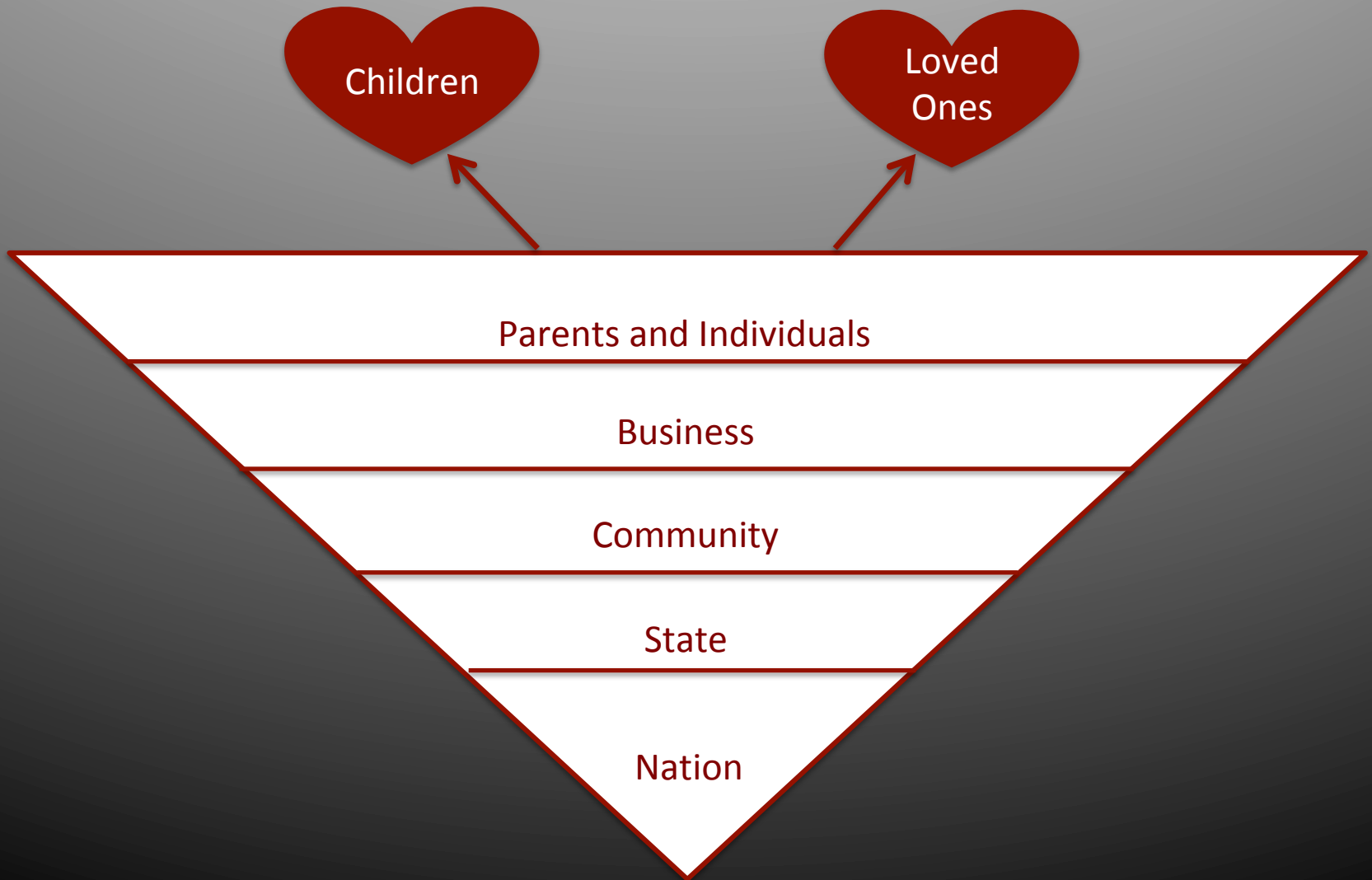
- 61 % of children under 6 spend 33 hours a week (or more) in childcare arrangements
- Older children spend an average of 13 hours a week in before & after school care programs
- Disasters NEVER happens at a convenient time / place
- There is a high probability that your family will NOT be together when a disaster happens

# *Prosperity Support Pyramid*

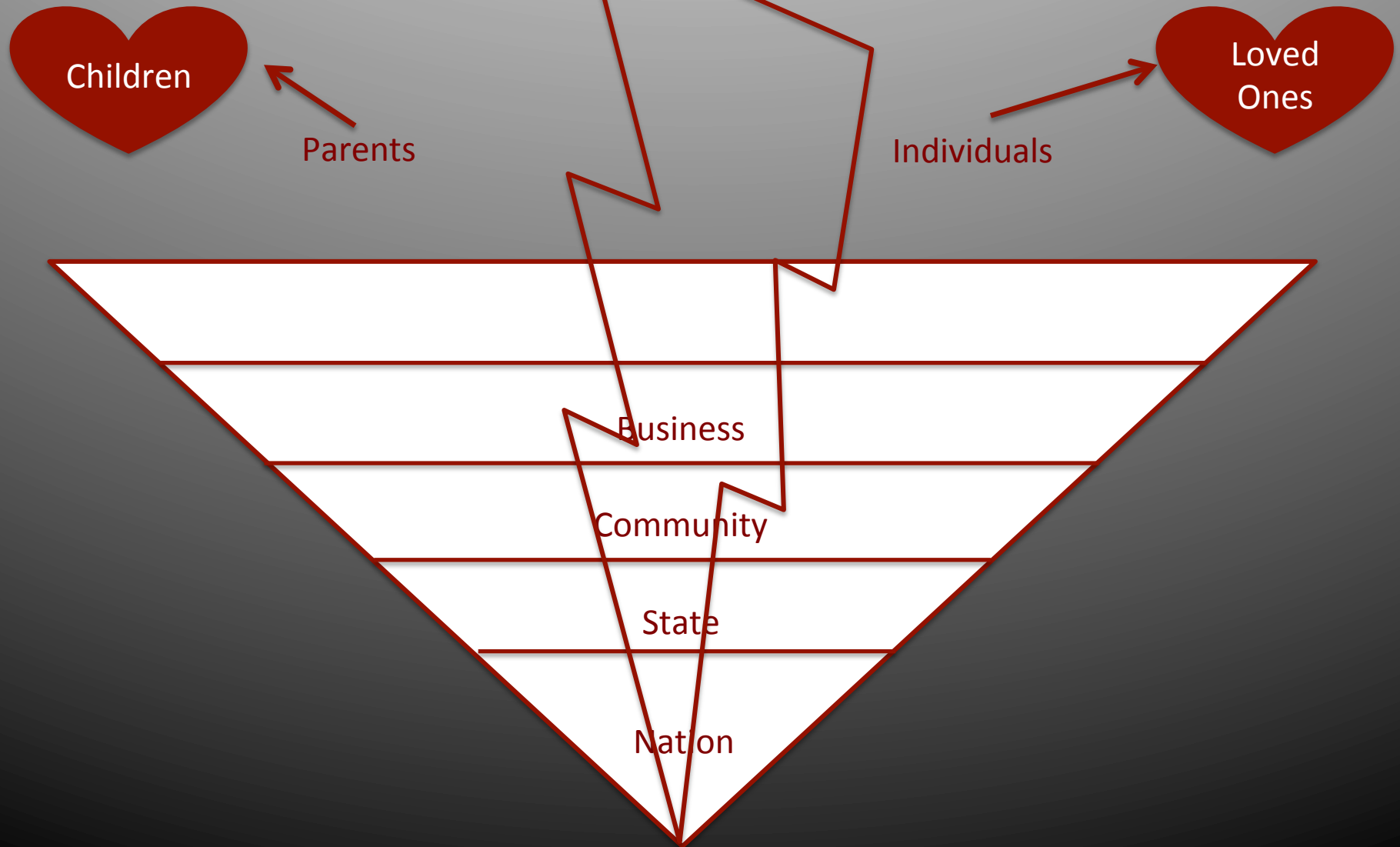




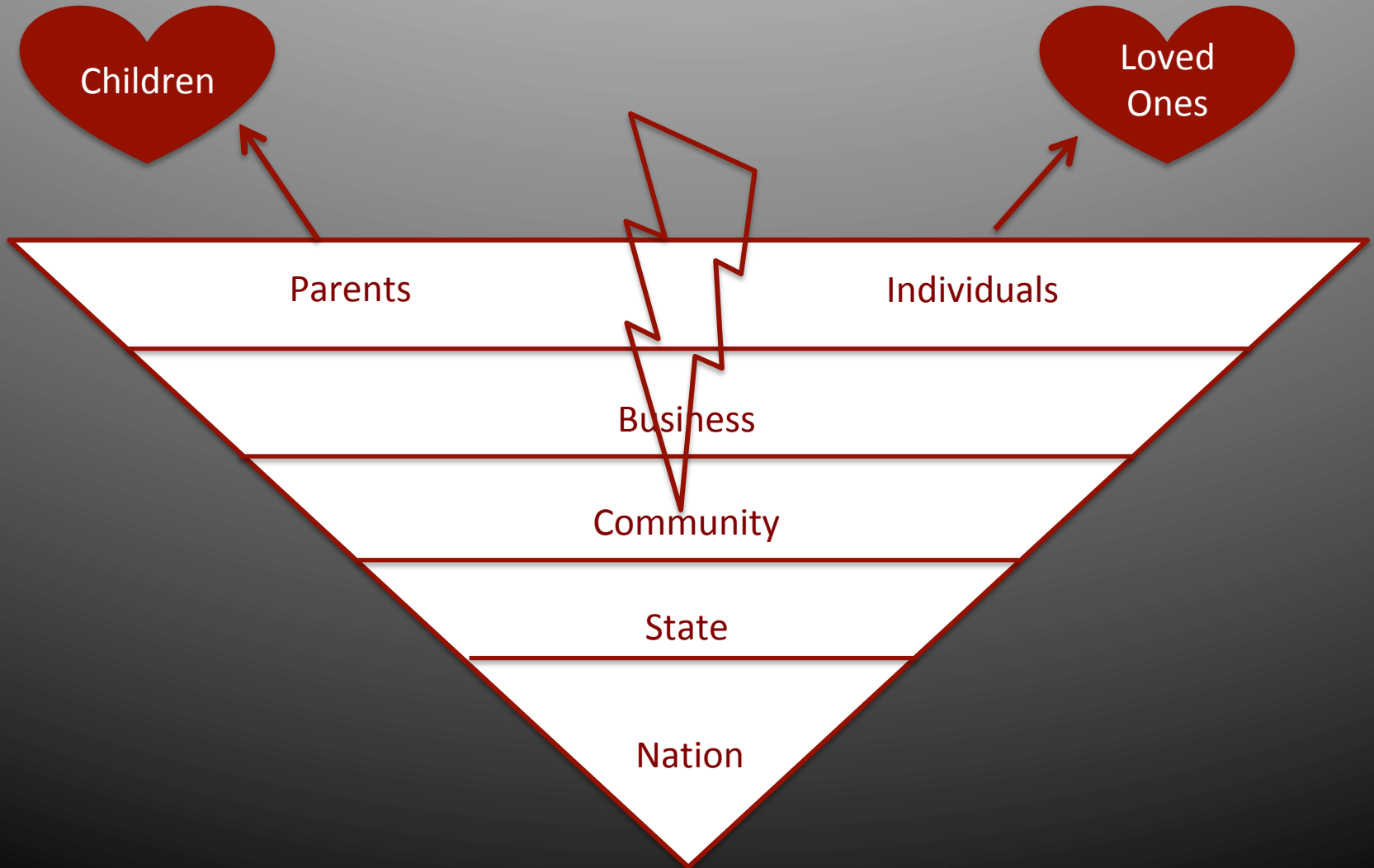
# *Hidden Pyramid Support*



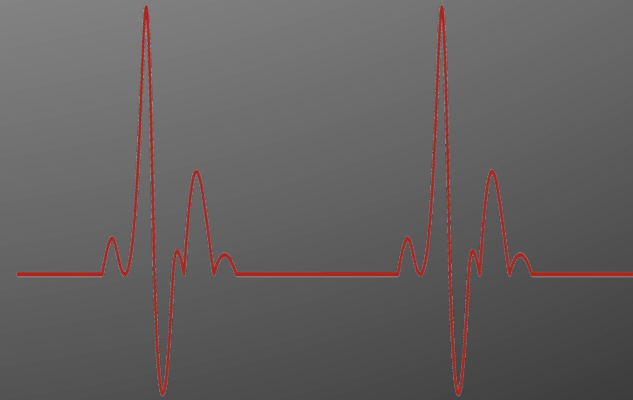
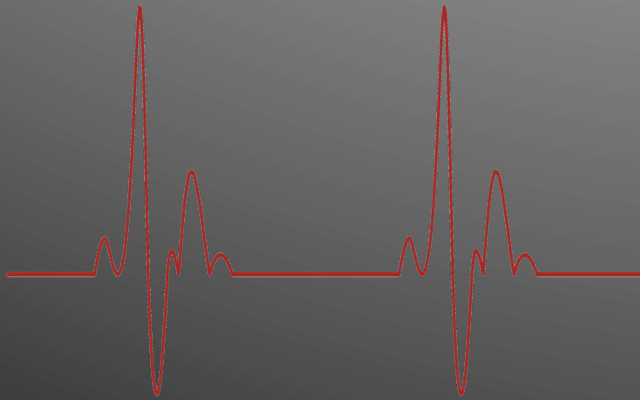
# *Impact of Disaster on the Pyramid*



# *How do we Maintain the Pyramid?*



*Childcare is  
“Critical Infrastructure” or  
“Mission Essential” to Parents*



# *Childcare Recovery is Limited*



- Public Childcare (state or federally funded)
- Private Childcare (for-profit)
- Nonprofit Childcare

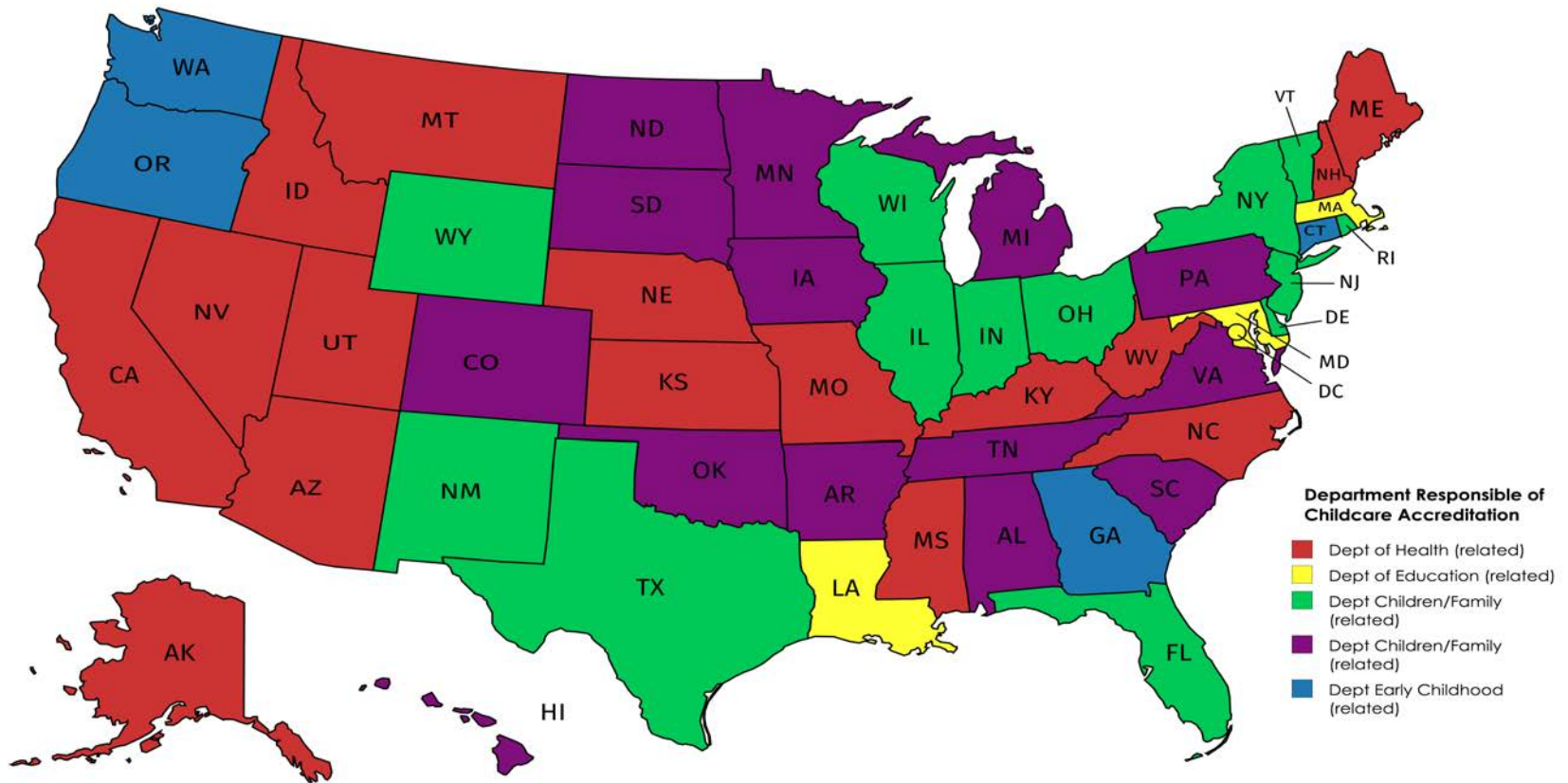


# *Enable Community Recovery by Enabling Childcare Recovery*

- State childcare organization
- Childcare vulnerabilities
- Recovery funding options
- Children's task force
- Emergency childcare plan



# Childcare Licensing & Registration Agencies Vary



# *Childcare Vulnerabilities*

- Location
- Hazard mapping
- PSIP Integration
- Engagement
- CCDBG requirements



# *Childcare Recovery Funding Considerations*

- Don't assume
- Recovery funding qualification
- Unaware where to go
- Landlord engagement
- Social Service Block Grants (SSBG)?





# *Children's Task Force Value*



- Capacity
- Scalable and adaptable
- Holistic options
- Builds relationships



# *Emergency Childcare Services*

- Talk with childcare accreditation agency
- Coordinate with NGOs



# *Community Recovery*

After lack of housing, lack of childcare is the SECOND largest obstacle to community recovery.



Communities DO NOT Recover  
if Parents Don't Go Back to Work

*Disaster Is Coming...*

***Is Your Community Prepared?***



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# Children's Unique Needs in Disasters

Children are not simply 'little adults.'

## Physical

Reliance on caregivers:

- Mobility
- Communication
- Safety & protection

Nutritional & medical needs

## Emotional

Lack coping skills

Routine & comfort

## Developmental

Disruption of learning

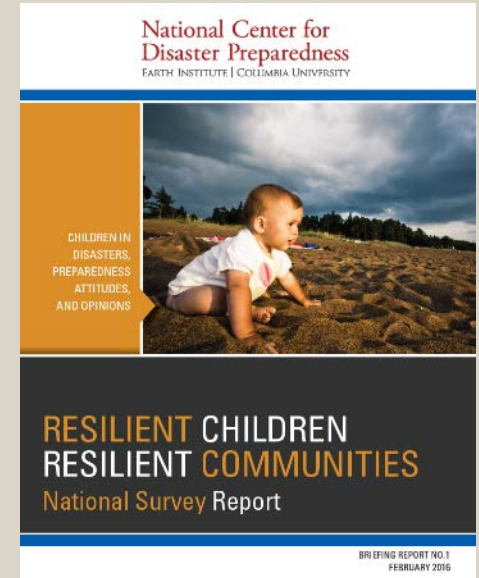
Milestone setbacks



# Exposing Gaps: National Survey

## KEY FINDINGS

- 37% were not confident that community was prepared to meet children's needs in emergencies.
- 54% believe children and parents would be reunified within several hours of a major disaster.
- 42% expect schools will resume within a week of a major disaster
- Only half of the population reports having a family emergency plan

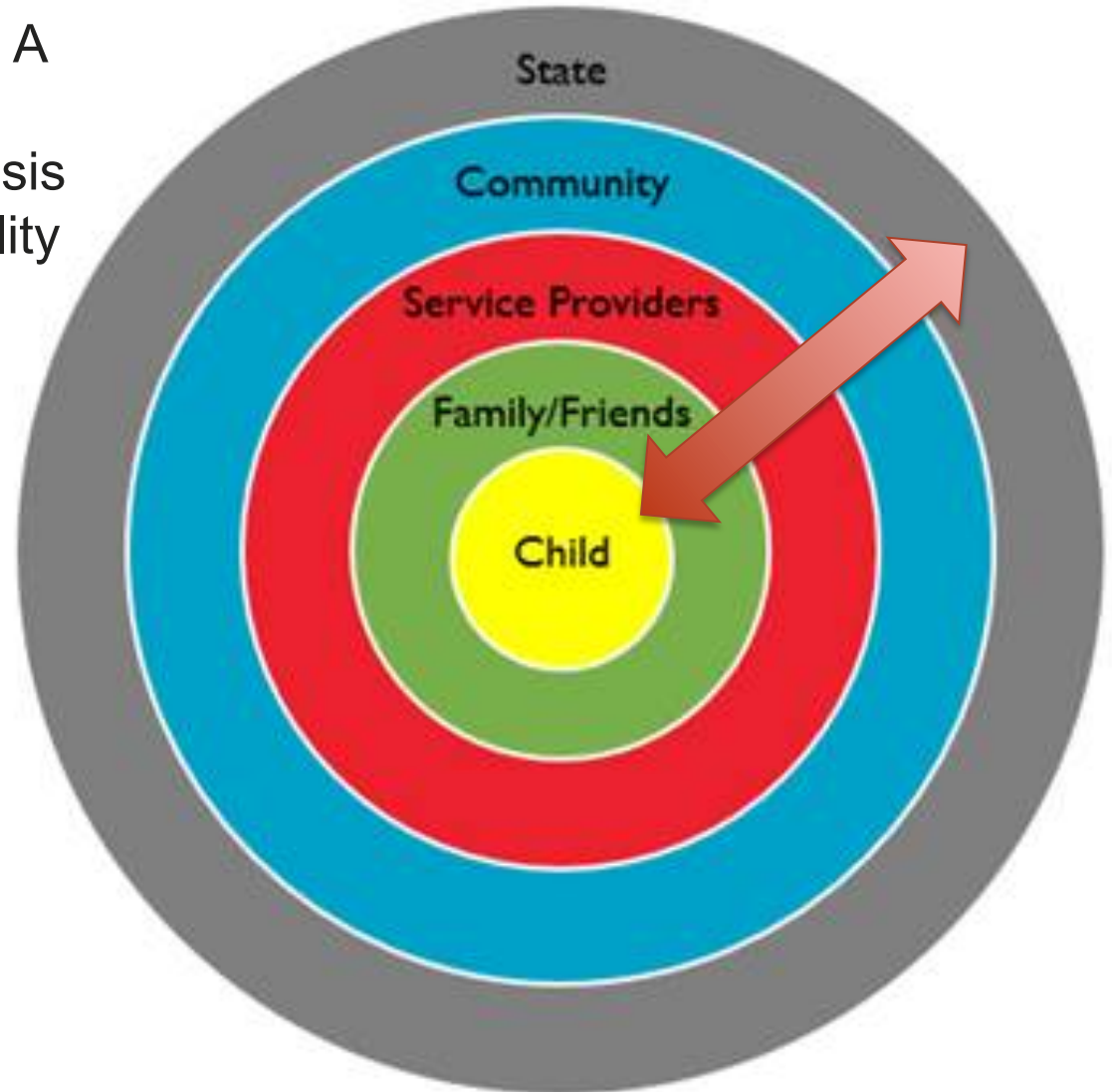


FULL REPORT: <http://ncdp.columbia.edu/rcrc>



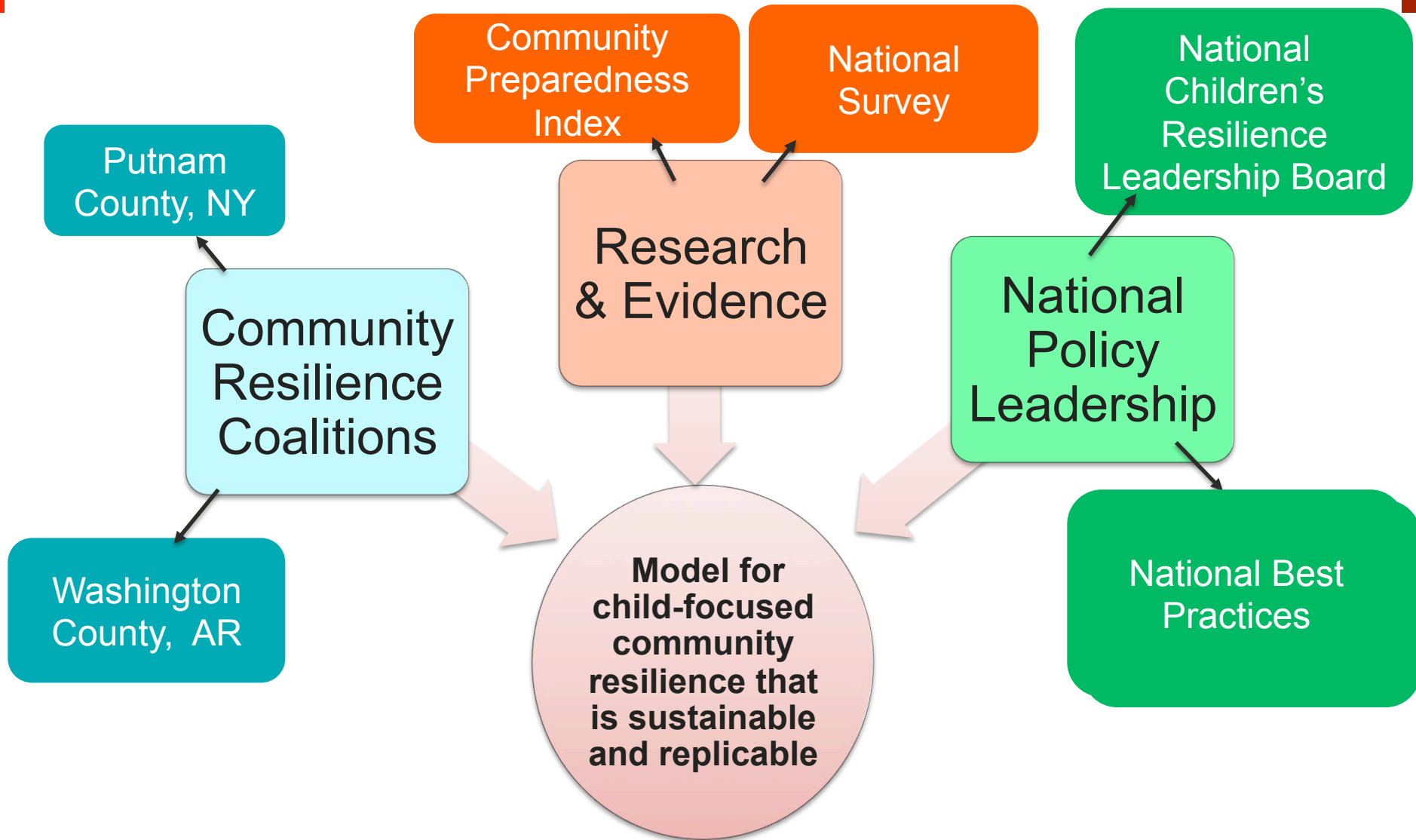
# Building Capacity & Connection

**WORKING HYPOTHESIS:** A community's resilience and ability to rebound from a crisis can be measured by its ability to care for its children.



# A New Approach to Child-Focused Resilience

## Resilient Children, Resilient Community Initiative



# Community Resilience Coalitions: A Catalyst for Change

## Who

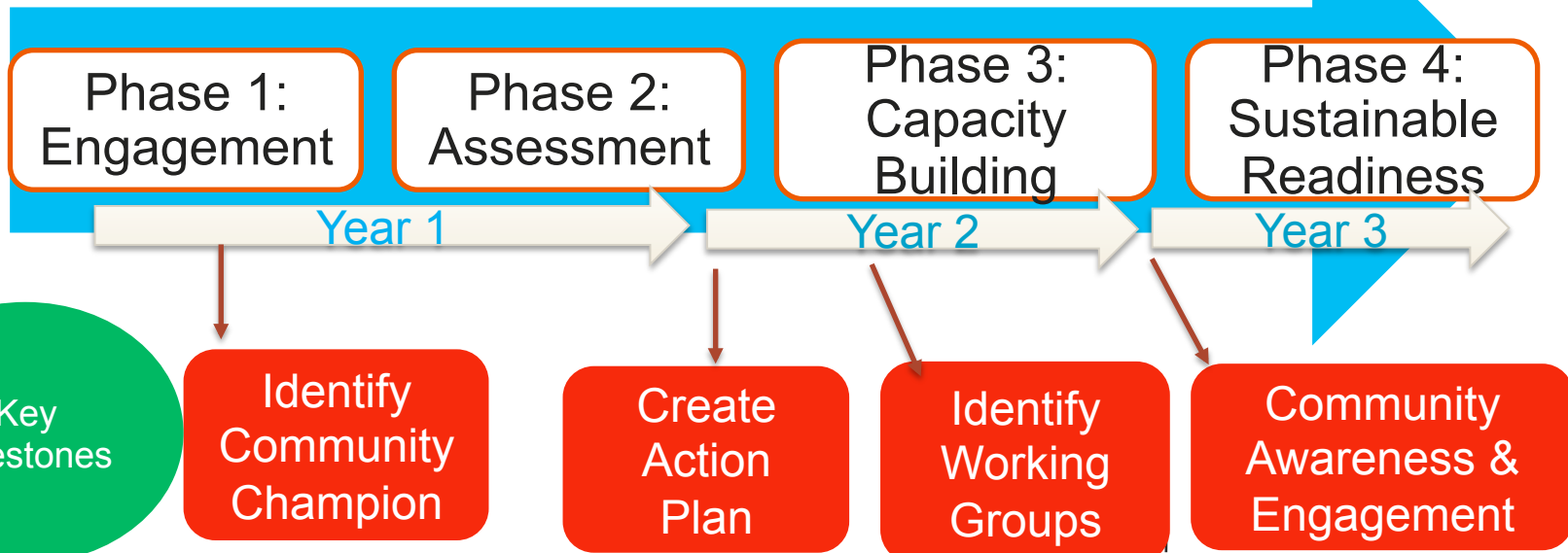
- Representatives from child-serving sectors, government agencies and emergency management
- Public and private institutions and stakeholders

## What

- Assess community strengths & gaps
- Develop community action plans
- Create a framework for national best practice



# VIDEO: Community Resilience Coalitions



# Research and Evidence-based Framework

## The Community Preparedness Index as a Guide

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**CPI:** Assessment tool which serves to guide community leaders and officials in determining their community's readiness to serve children in a disaster.

### Sectors:

- Child Care centers
- Family child care providers
- Public, Private and Charter Schools
- Foster Care
- Hospitals
- Emergency Shelters
- Lead Organizations
- Community-Wide Organizations





# Improving National Practices

## National Children's Resilience Leadership Board

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- Conjures the expertise and experience of thought leaders, practitioners and academics
- Provides guidance to the pilot communities
- Facilitates dialogue between the local and national levels

Representatives from:

- FEMA
- Save the Children
- NCDP
- Walt Disney Company
- GSK
- NYU
- US Chamber of Commerce
- City of San Francisco

# Getting Results: Example Successes

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## **Washington County, AR- Child Care Sector**

- Child care emergency plans are now turned into the county EM office, as required by state regulations.

## **Washington County, AR- EM Sector**

- A child-focused tabletop exercise was conducted in November 2016 that included over 65 participants from over 35 different organizations and all 8 sectors.

## **Putnam County, NY- School Sector**

- The Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) of Westchester and Putnam Counties has emerged as a leader for school-based resilience.

# Key Lessons Learned

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- Differences in community strengths
- Varying engagement of different sectors
- Advantages of linking with an established community group
- Importance of EM buy-in and championing
- Child-serving institutions are very receptive and eager
- Need to strengthen CPI with accompanying practical guidance
- Small improvements can make a big difference

# What You Can Do:

## Protecting Children In Your Community

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- Connect with child-serving institutions
- Include training on children's needs in emergencies
- Add Children's Annex to EOP
- Coordinate child-focused tabletop exercise

From RCRC Initiative

- Access Community Preparedness Index
- RCRC Toolkit



# Questions?

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National Center for  
Disaster Preparedness  
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