

Critical Issues For Children in Disasters



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#IAEM16



How many children are separated from their parents on a routine workday?

69 Million



Why focus on children in disasters?

- Highly vulnerable
- Unique needs
- 23% of the U.S. population

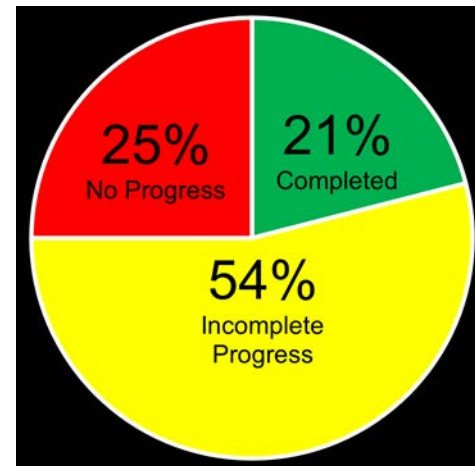


Why focus on children in disasters?

- 59% of the dependent population
- Inaccurately categorized
- Preparedness gaps

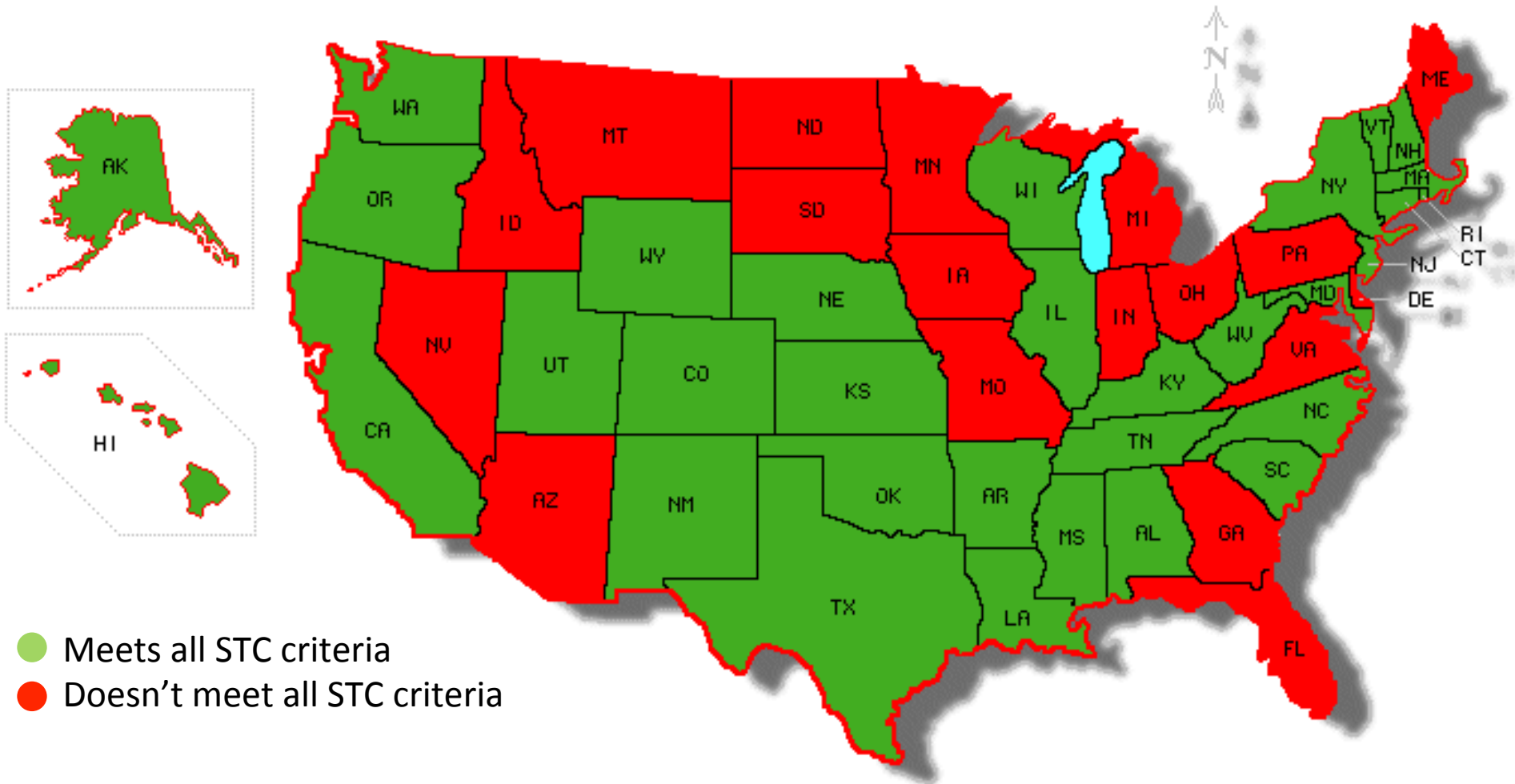
Children's Needs Have Not Been a National Priority

11 years after Katrina



Only 21% of NCCD recommendations
are complete.

The record on children's needs at the state & local level is mixed





Reality Check

- What agency in your state oversees childcare organizations?
- What agency in your state is responsible for children's welfare?
- Does your state mandate childcare facilities meet the Save The Children standards?



Reality Check

- Do your plans address the needs of children?
- Do you involve local child serving organizations in planning & preparedness?
- Have you exercised your plan using children?

Objectives

- Explain the importance of children's task forces in effective disaster preparedness planning.
- Develop effective reunification plans for individual jurisdictions.
- Describe the challenges of protecting children in shelters (and the attendant controversies therein).
- Identify 2 ways to better meet children's disaster needs.

Critical Issue 1: Children's Task Forces

How they work

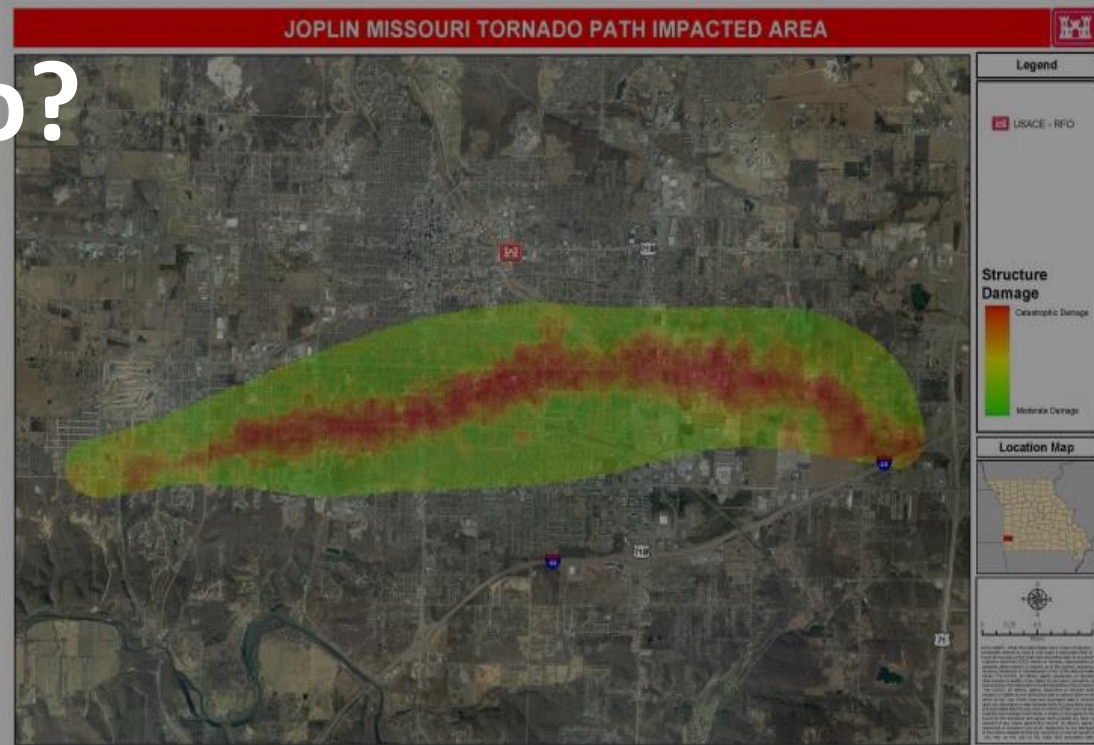
Why they are needed

What are Children's Task Forces?



Multi-disciplinary collaborations focused solely on children's disaster needs

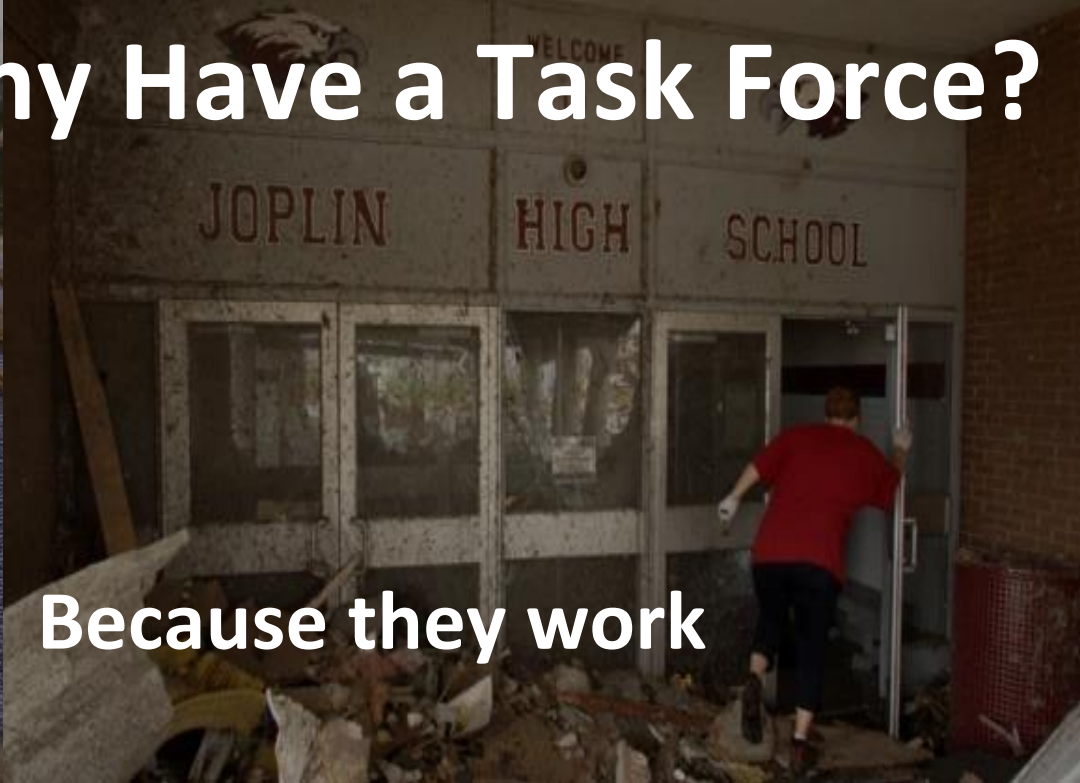
What do they do?



Drive coordination on children's issues



Why Have a Task Force?



Because they work



Where?

- Joplin, MO (2011)
- Hurricane Sandy (NJ & NY, 2012)
- Hurricane Isaac (LA, 2012)

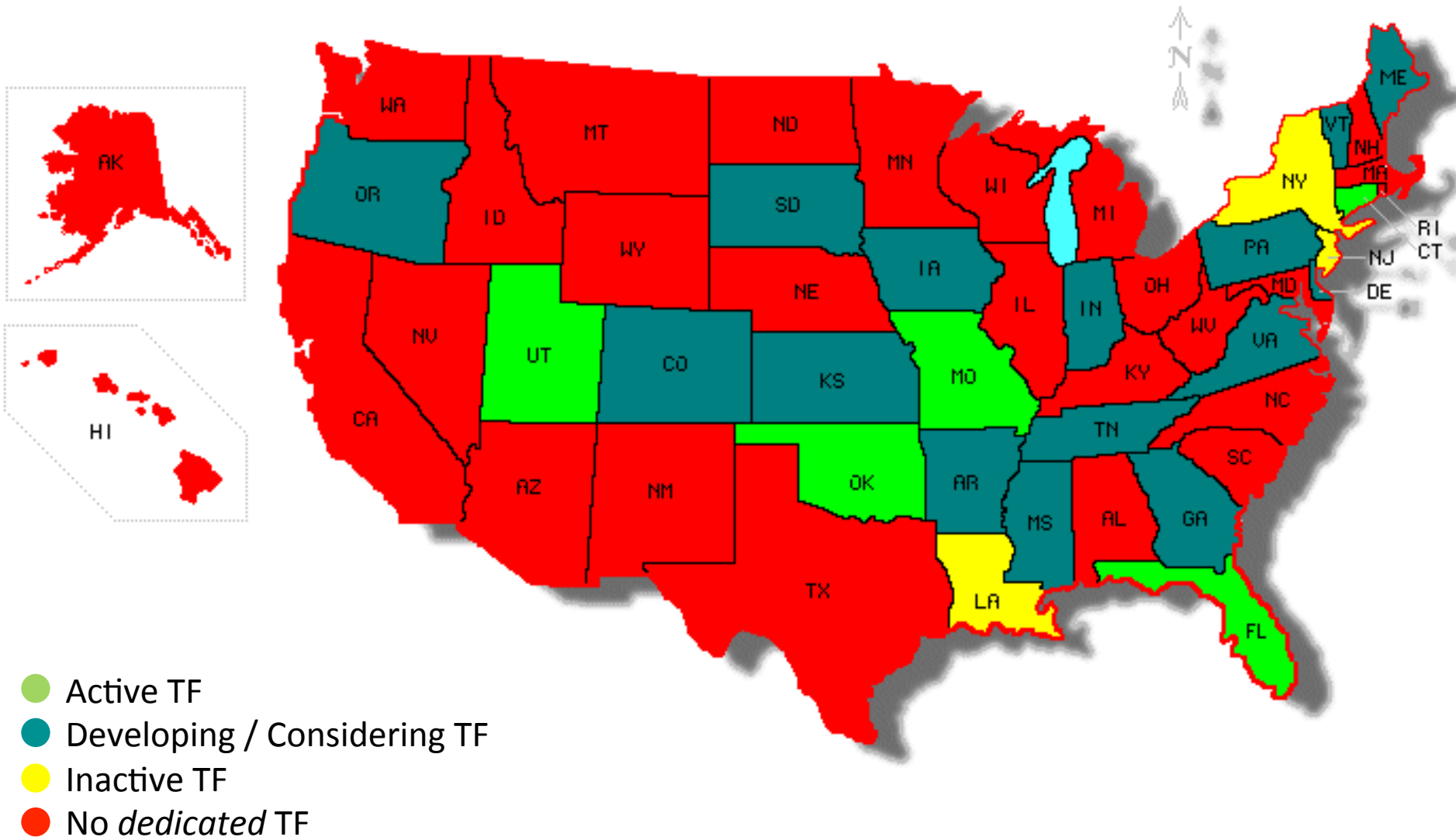


How are we doing?

As of July 2016, only 5 states have *dedicated* Children's Disasters Task Forces



Dedicated Children's Disasters Task Forces



How to start a Task Force?

- 
- A black and white photograph of a playground slide partially submerged in the ocean. The slide is tilted and appears to be struggling against the waves, with water splashing around its base. The background shows a vast, choppy sea under a cloudy sky.
- Use provided resources
 - Reach out
 - Work together

Resources

- Templates
- White Paper



- Contacts
- Best Practices



Critical Issue 2: Reunification

Bringing them back together.
Quickly and Safely.

Separation from parents





More acute in Weekday &
Catastrophic Disasters

WHY?

What's different about weekdays?



69 Million

children separated from parents

Why catastrophic disasters?



5,192 children separated in Katrina

An aerial photograph showing the aftermath of a catastrophic disaster. The scene is filled with rubble, destroyed buildings, and debris. Several yellow construction cranes are visible, indicating ongoing recovery efforts. A large black pipe or cable runs diagonally across the center of the image. The overall tone is somber and highlights the scale of the destruction.

**What about weekday
catastrophic disasters?**

Reunification Problems



- No reunification plans
- Untested plans

Reunification Problems

- Tracking
- Critical missing
- Large distances



Reunification Problems

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in Japan, showing the aftermath of a disaster. The town is densely packed with houses and buildings. A large, multi-story building with a red roof is prominent in the upper center. The area is heavily flooded, with water covering the streets and surrounding areas. Debris is scattered throughout the scene, and smoke is visible rising from some areas, suggesting fires or destruction. The ocean is visible on the right side of the image, with waves breaking onto the shore.

- Different systems
- Lack of information
- Multiple reports

Reunification Solutions



Post-Disaster Reunification of Children: A Nationwide Approach

November 2013



FEMA



American
Red Cross

NATIONAL
CENTER FOR
MISSING &
EXPLOITED
CHILDREN



MULTI-AGENCY REUNIFICATION SERVICES PLAN TEMPLATE

Jurisdiction

Month/Day/Year

Version 1
May 1, 2015

Reunification Solutions



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[UNACCOMPANIED MINORS REGISTRY](#)

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Welcome to the Unaccompanied Minors Registry

If you locate an unaccompanied minor, **please call your local law enforcement agency immediately.** Then complete the following.

The Unaccompanied Minors Registry supports the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) by allowing the public to report information related to children who have been separated from their parents or legal guardians as a result of a disaster. This tool will enable NCMEC to provide assistance to local law enforcement and assist in the reunification of displaced children with their parents or legal guardians. If you experience any trouble reporting online, please contact NCMEC 24-hours a day, at [1-800-THE-LOST](tel:1-800-THE-LOST) ([1-800-843-5678](tel:1-800-843-5678) **FREE**).

An unaccompanied minor is a child who has been separated from parents, legal guardians, and other relatives and is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.

This site is a secured site. UMR uses Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology to encrypt information on this application over the internet.

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Reunification Solutions

Children's Disaster Reunification Plan Pilot Program

Reunification Solutions



- Plan
- Exercise your plan

Critical Issue 3:

Protecting Children in Shelters

Keeping them safe in the worst of times.



**Disasters increase
vulnerability to sex
offenders & traffickers**



Why?

Protecting Children in Shelters

They are even more vulnerable in shelters

Why?



Protecting Children in Shelters

- 
- Number of people
 - From everywhere
 - Relative chaos
 - Parental distraction

Problems Protecting Them

- No national standard
- Different approaches
- No case law
- Conflicting rights

Solutions

- NCCD recommendations
- Common standard
- Unified approach
- Educate
- Avoid creating case law
- Protect everyone



Critical Issue 4: Meeting Children's Disaster Needs Better

Living up to our obligation to them.

Meet children's disaster needs better

- Address & implement the NCCD recommendations
- Meet the STC National Report Card Criteria



Meet children's disaster needs better

- Work at the local and state level
- Address “low hanging fruit”



Meet children's disaster needs better

- **Build on other's work**
 - FEMA
 - Other EMs (local & states)
 - IAEM Children in Disasters Caucus





Questions

Contact

Drew Bumbak

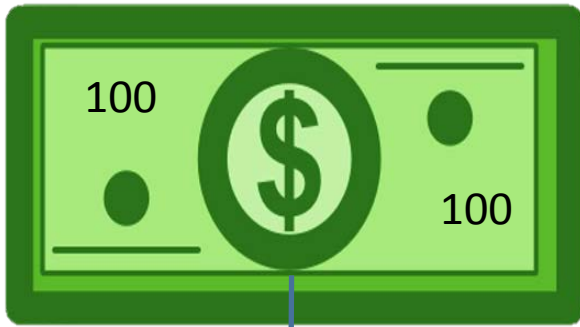
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IAEM Children in Disasters Caucus

<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-caucuses/children-in-disasters&lvl=2>

BACKUP SLIDES (HIDDEN)



If the total was
just \$100...



Just 8 cents for
children's needs

Children's Needs have not been a National Priority

- **Between 2004 and 2012**, ~ 0.08% of Federal preparedness grant money went to children's needs
- Out of **\$16.7B**, only \$13.2M dedicated to children's needs