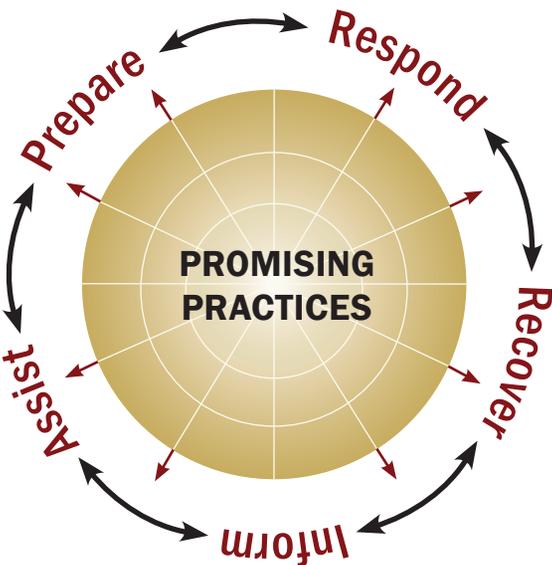


Mission



The mission of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. SAMHSA provides Disaster Training and Technical Assistance to prepare States, Territories, federally recognized Tribes, and local entities to deliver an effective behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) response to disasters. Services are free of cost and available to everyone.



Disaster Training and Technical Assistance

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Disaster Training and Technical Assistance

Supporting all-hazards disaster behavioral health preparedness, response, and recovery through informed, targeted technical assistance

Technical Assistance, Training, and Expert Consultation

SAMHSA provides disaster technical assistance, training, and consultation to help disaster behavioral health professionals plan for and respond effectively to mental health and substance abuse needs following a disaster. SAMHSA supports all-hazards disaster behavioral health preparedness, response, and recovery through informed, targeted technical assistance to reduce the effects disasters can bring to communities, families, and individuals. SAMHSA does the following:

- Reviews State and local all-hazards disaster behavioral health plans in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS)
- Strengthens disaster behavioral health preparedness through onsite and web-based consultation and training that is evidence informed
- Collects and analyzes need, capability, and response data and distributes reports to inform technical assistance development and implementation for States, Territories, local providers, and tribal groups addressing various types of disasters
- Provides grant-specific technical assistance and support for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP)

Disaster Behavioral Health Resources

SAMHSA offers a resource collection of over 1,800 tip sheets, publications, studies, and articles, including resources in languages other than English, created by Federal agencies, grantees, nongovernmental organizations, and academic institutions. Many of the SAMHSA disaster technical assistance resources are on the website: <http://samhsa.gov/dtac>

To meet the needs of the field, SAMHSA does the following:

- Organizes thematic collections of resources and toolkits that compose the Disaster Behavioral Health Information Series (DBHIS); each installment focuses on a specific population, disaster type, or other topic pertinent to disaster behavioral health preparedness, response, and recovery
- Identifies and designs new materials to address gaps and meet emerging needs
- Informs the field by spotlighting recent developments and upcoming events in field-driven publications such as the *DTAC Bulletin* and *The Dialogue*

Information Exchange and Knowledge Brokering

SAMHSA understands that experience is the best teacher. Therefore, staff connect those seeking technical assistance with their peers and experts in the field to facilitate the exchange of information and lessons learned. SAMHSA does the following:

- Facilitates an online discussion board, through which those in the disaster behavioral health field share promising practices and discuss challenges
- Encourages collaboration by creating new partnerships and engaging stakeholders in preparedness and response
- Coordinates a cadre of consultants to provide onsite training, as well as guidance on preparedness, response, and support
- Analyzes and disseminates lessons learned from past Federal, State, and local responses to encourage improvement of approaches and methods over time
- Presents and exhibits at disaster-related events to spread the word about how SAMHSA can help