

## **Goal 1. Individuals, families, & caregivers have the support & training to prepare for disasters.**

**1a. Recognizing that the majority of San Franciscans will need to shelter in place for at least the first 72 hours after an event, ensure that there is support and training to ensure that seniors, people with disabilities, and their caregivers are prepared.** Specifics may include:

- Develop a multi-lingual, fear-free public awareness campaign that highlights existing resources (including various alerts) and how residents can best be prepared and/or respond in the case of an emergency;
- Incorporate detailed explanations of various alarms and alerts in informational resources for residents;
- Explore to what capacity existing alarms or alerts can be emergency specific (such as different tones, providing next steps or safe routes);
- Identify opportunities to reach vulnerable residents that are not connected to social service networks; and
- Ensuring that residents are registered with AlertSF (San Francisco's citywide communication system).

## **Goal 2. Resiliency efforts at the community level are supported & include seniors & people with disabilities.**

**2a. Support and expand existing community-based approaches recognized to effectively mitigate the impact of disasters and emergencies.** Existing efforts include:

- Neighborhood Emergency Response Team;
- Partnering with efforts that work closely with isolated and/or vulnerable populations; and
- Neighborhood Empowerment Network.

**2b. All resiliency efforts that prepare for disasters and/or ensure communities are able to recover following a disaster should include the participation of seniors and people with disabilities, in addition to ensuring that their needs are accounted for.** Examples include:

- Drills should be conducted regularly, so that participants can develop a sense of how to respond in a crisis; and
- Trainings and sheltering exercises should be accessible and inclusive.

**2c. Ensure that institutional facilities and in-home caregivers are prepared to support seniors and people with disabilities in the case of a disaster or emergency.** Specifics may include:

- **Training of homecare agencies and homecare providers:**
  - How home health care providers can be personally prepared for a disaster; and
  - How caregivers can support their clients in disaster preparedness, such as helping clients create disaster plans. This could include backup plans for transportation, health maintenance, and information related to evacuation and access to shelters in case their

home health care provider cannot reach them in an emergency.

### **Goal 3. Emergency response efforts include the unique needs of seniors & people with disabilities.**

**3a. Implement policies and procedures that account for and are prepared to respond promptly to seniors and people with disabilities, prioritizing those who require additional support or are unable to shelter in place for 72 hours.**

- Ensure that the skills and strengths of community-based organizations serving people with disabilities are well integrated into emergency service plans and local government strategies<sup>1</sup>;
- Identify methods for signaling for help, particularly for residents unable to leave their homes;
- Assess existing alert networks, identify any gaps in coordination or communication and ensure that key departments are included in the planning and implementation;
- Ensure that there is a strategy in place for evacuating people with mobility challenges in multi-story buildings;
- Assess the feasibility of using mandates with regards to evacuations, such as fire safe elevators;
- Ensure that first responders are trained to identify and support seniors and people with disabilities in a disaster, such as people with cognitive impairment; and
- All disaster plans account for critical equipment, including strategies to provide back-up power system in an emergency or disaster<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> National Council on Disability, "Saving Lives: Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Planning."

<sup>2</sup> FEMA states that emergency plans "should include strategies to provide power for services that require a backup power system in an emergency or disaster."