Tribal COAD Toolkit Summary

Introduction

The toolkit is designed to help Tribal Nations prepare, respond, recover, and mitigate disasters through community-based organizations. It emphasizes community education, assessment, training, and planning. The toolkit incorporates standards from the NVOAD Long Term Recovery and Points of Consensus and is developed by Adler Disaster Consulting for the Emergency Operations Center, Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board (GPTLHB).

Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Health Board (GPTLHB)

Established in 1986, GPTLHB represents 18 tribal communities in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. It aims to reduce public health disparities and improve health and wellness through lasting partnerships and embracing culturally significant values empowered by tribal sovereignty.

Disaster Basics

Understanding Disasters

A disaster is a serious disruption causing widespread losses that exceed the community's ability to cope using its resources. Disasters can be natural (e.g., hurricanes, floods) or human-caused (e.g., acts of terrorism).

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Types of Disaster Declarations

- Undeclared Disasters: Local communities handle these with the help of local resources.

- State or Tribal Declared Disasters: When local capacity is exceeded, state or tribal governments declare a state of emergency.

- Federally Declared Disasters: The Stafford Act allows for a Presidential disaster declaration when state and tribal resources are insufficient.

Tribal Sovereignty

Tribal sovereignty is the inherent right of tribes to self-govern. It includes political and cultural sovereignty, which is essential in disaster management. Tribal Nations can request disaster declarations separately from state declarations, offering control over resources but also presenting challenges due to limited resources.

Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS is a standardized approach to emergency response, providing a common hierarchy for responders from multiple agencies. It ensures effective management and increased safety during disasters.

Federal, Tribal, and State Disaster Systems

- Federal: FEMA provides Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs for disaster recovery.

- Tribal: Tribal Offices of Emergency Management (OEM) manage disaster response within tribes.

- State: State OEMs protect citizens through preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

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Introducing the COAD Concept

Community Benefits and Guiding Principles

COADs provide a framework for disaster response and recovery by bringing together various organizations to maximize resources. The guiding principles include cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.

COAD Development

- Engagement with Tribal Emergency Management and Tribal Council: Essential for gaining support and resources.

- Leadership and Membership Process: Involves identifying partners from various sectors and developing volunteer roles.

- Role of NVOAD and State VOAD: Critical for support and coordination of disaster response efforts.

COAD Infrastructure

Governance Structure

Can involve a fiscal agent, nonprofit status, or working as a subcommittee of an existing organization.

Mission Statement and Bylaws

Clearly define the COAD's purpose and operational guidelines.

Administrative Policies

Cover fiscal management, human resources, unmet needs guidelines, and insurance considerations.

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Strategic and Operational Planning

- Assessments: Community assessments (e.g., PESTLE, SWOT) and disaster history.

- Operational Plan Development: Includes setting SMART goals and forming committees for various

functional areas.

Sustaining a COAD

- Evaluation: Regular evaluation to ensure the COAD's effectiveness and sustainability.

- Training Resources: Provides training opportunities and resource links for continued development.

Phases of a Disaster

Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

- Mitigation: Actions to reduce disaster impact.

- Preparedness: Developing and updating disaster plans.

- Response: Immediate actions to ensure safety.

- Recovery: Long-term efforts to restore normalcy.

Special Considerations for Tribal Nations

Tribal Nations often face challenges like limited resources and rural settings. COADs help address

these challenges by providing trained volunteers and tracking volunteer hours for matching dollar

requirements.

Conclusion

The Tribal COAD Toolkit equips Tribal Nations with the necessary tools and knowledge to establish

effective disaster management organizations. By fostering community collaboration and utilizing

available resources, COADs enhance the resilience and recovery of Tribal Nations during disasters.

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