



**Georgia Department
of Human Services**

Emergency Support Function 6 (Mass Care, Emergency
Assistance, Temporary Housing, & Human Assistance) Annex
to Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

2023

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Record of Change

Change #	Date	Part Affected	Date Posted	Who Posted
1	02/28/2020	Cover Page- Changed date from 2017 to 2020	02/28/2020	Kelly Thompson
2	02/28/2020	1.1 Purpose – deleted extra word for clarity	02/28/2020	Kelly Thompson
3	02/28/2020	1.2 scope – Made grammatical changes	02/28/2020	Kelly Thompson
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Record of Distribution

Plan #	Office/Department	Representative	Signature
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6 Annex to the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan (GEOP) is to define the delivery of Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Assistance when local, response and recovery capabilities are overwhelmed. ESF-6 assumes primary responsibility for Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing and Human Services when the State of Georgia serves as a host state under the Federal Catastrophic Evacuation Plan.

1.2 Scope

ESF-6 has many agencies involved in carrying out the functional responsibilities that reside within it. Agencies and organizations listed in this ESF will support local jurisdictions in the functional response areas listed below and perform such functions on behalf of the state when it's serving as a host state under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Catastrophic Evacuation Plan concept. These functions include but are not limited to:

Mass Care: Includes sheltering, feeding operations, emergency first aid, bulk distribution of emergency items, and collecting and providing information on impacted residents to family members. This function also includes consideration and planning for individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. ESF-6 must be inclusive of what the whole community would require during disasters.

Emergency Assistance: Assistance required by individuals, families, and their communities to ensure that immediate needs beyond the scope of the traditional mass care services provided at the local level are addressed. These services include support for evacuations (including registration and tracking of evacuees); reunification of families; coordination with ESF-8 for provision of aid and services to people with access and functional needs, coordination with ESF-11 regarding pet sheltering; coordination of donated goods and services; and coordination of voluntary agency assistance.

Temporary Housing: Includes housing options such as rental assistance, repair, loan assistance, replacement, manufactured homes, semi-permanent and permanent construction, referrals, identification and provision of accessible housing, and access to other sources of housing assistance. These processes are in accordance with the National Disaster Housing Strategy, dated January 2009, and coordinated within the state through the Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force. Federal assistance through possible FEMA IA-TAC programs for the construction of temporary housing units and facilities. (i.e., Manufactured Homes parks.)

Human Assistance: May assist the federal government in the coordination and implementation of federal disaster assistance programs to help impacted residents to recover from a disaster. Their non-housing losses, including programs to replace destroyed personal property, and help to obtain disaster loans, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP), disaster unemployment benefits, Social Security benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, disaster legal services, and

employment assistance. Support and services under human services may also include education enrollment assistance for school-age children. ESF-6 will notify ESF-8 to ensure that medical assistance is available for the functional and medical needs populations.

2.0 Concept of the Operation

2.1 General

All agencies listed within this ESF-6 Annex are expected to participate in planning and coordination meetings scheduled through the coordinating agency to ensure seamless, effective, and efficient preparedness, response, and recovery activities within ESF-6.

ESF-6 will be represented in the State Operations Center (SOC) with enough knowledgeable personnel who have completed SOC training and have been empowered to make high-level decisions on behalf of their agency. Each Primary and Support Agency identified in this ESF is not expected to be physically represented within the SOC. However, ESF-6 representatives are expected to have personnel identified to come in should conditions warrant and be available through electronic or telephonic means when necessary. ESF-6 representatives in the SOC will receive and consolidate status reports on mass care, emergency assistance, temporary housing, and human services activities, within the state for inclusion in the operational period situation reports Mass Care.

2.2 Plan Activation

During Activation:

ESF-6 will coordinate with other agencies as appropriate during mass evacuations or no-notice events to ensure emergency shelters are open in appropriate locations to meet situational needs. Emergency shelters will be opened in conjunction with local ESF-6 and local emergency management agencies. The locations and information concerning the shelters will be disseminated through ESF-15.

For Informational Purposes: Emergency shelters, as described in this plan, are defined as facilities that can provide a safe location for impacted residents before, during, and immediately following a disaster. These shelters are not intended to be used for prolonged periods and should only be considered as short-term facilities for affected residents until they are allowed to return to their homes, or the decision is made to transition to general sheltering. General shelters will support affected residents until they can return to their homes or enter interim or permanent housing facilities, as determined by the Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force.

ESF-6 in coordination with ESF-8 and ESF-11 are responsible for feeding impacted residents, evacuees, and response personnel either at a fixed location or locations or through mobile feeding units to ensure feeding operations are carried out in a manner that is both safe and nutritionally sound. ESF-7 under the GEOP coordinates the process of delivering bulk food items and water but is not responsible for this function.

Organizations not identified in this ESF may be integrated into response operations; these organizations may include voluntary organizations, the private-sector, or food distributors and private food warehouse operators.

ESF-6 will coordinate the distribution of relief items to impacted residents as appropriate. These relief items may come from state or government purchases or be donated from private partners or general citizens. ESF-5 will coordinate the receipt, inventory, and warehousing of donated relief items and make them available to ESF-6 and other state agencies, local, non-governmental, and voluntary organizations when necessary.

American Red Cross (ARC)

- In conjunction with ESF-6, ARC is expected to provide most mass care services for affected residents within Georgia. The ARC provides subject matter experts to coordinate the pre-identification, registration, and operation of shelters for the general population to include the provision of services for individuals with access and functional needs. The ARC may also provide fixed and mobile feeding operations and bulk distribution of essential necessary supplies (food, water, basic hygiene) to assist impacted residents.
- The ARC will enter shelter information from Georgia into the National Shelter System (NSS). Independent Shelters operated by local jurisdictions or community organizations should be entered into NSS to capture the full scope of the needs of the community. Comfort Stations may also be entered into NSS for the same purpose. The NSS is a web-based system that provides statistical information on all identified shelters and near real-time status information during disasters or emergencies.
- When large scale evacuations are ordered and residents are required to be moved outside of their county, the ARC through ESF-6 will collect individual information for those evacuated residents residing in emergency shelters. Residents will also be provided an opportunity to register on the ARC “Safe and Well” site by telephone or on-line to help them reconnect with family members from whom they have been separated or to post their status.
- In conjunction with ESF-8, Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Georgia VOAD), the Department of Human Services (DHS), and Department of Public Health (DPH) will coordinate with local emergency management officials to identify, inspect, approve, and inventory adequate shelters within the state prior to a disaster. These guidelines and processes are further explained in the Evacuation Shelter Plan. In addition to establishing shelters, ARC, DHS, DPH, and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS) will establish state guidelines for shelter selection, opening, and operation that are consistent with national guidelines and includes local decision-makers, and local and state emergency management officials.

Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)

- Is responsible for basic medical aid at approved and operating shelters when appropriate. The provision of Basic Medical Aid will be coordinated by ESF-6 in conjunction with ESF-8. Not all shelters would require on-site medical expertise but will require medical oversight by authorized personnel. For more information, review the Evacuation Shelter Plan.

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

- Will provide law enforcement personnel for basic safety and security services at approved and operating shelters when appropriate. ESF-6 will coordinate with ESF-13 and local law enforcement authorities who have jurisdictional authority for the communities in which approved shelters are located. Not all shelters would require law enforcement personnel. Review the Evacuation Shelter Plan for more detailed information.

Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA)

- ESF-11 is responsible for animal sheltering as established in the Animal-Friendly Shelters Standard Operating Procedure Manual created in partnership with ESF-6 and ESF-8. ESF-6 will coordinate with ESF-11 to coordinate the locations of both human and pet shelters.

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA/HS)

- Will ensure that individuals and families impacted by disasters, including those from outside the state, that have been evacuated or sheltered within Georgia, are provided access to register for state and or federal disaster assistance programs, when applicable. This shall be accomplished through the establishment of state and/or federally managed Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and or Mobile DRCs located in or close to disaster locations. GEMA/HS shall establish such service centers within the state to support individuals and families evacuating to Georgia under the Georgia Evacuee Support Plan for Catastrophic Disasters.

Georgia has established and maintains an active Disaster Housing Task Force. The Task Force provides a forum for collaboration and identification of disaster housing issues and options during the response and short-term recovery phases of a disaster. This committee is tasked with the development of comprehensive strategies to meet the disaster housing needs after a disaster, or residents of other states seeking refuge following catastrophic disasters that leave their home state uninhabitable on a permanent or temporary basis. ESF-6 will determine before, during, or after a disaster if conditions warrant the assembling of the Georgia Disaster Housing Task Force (GDHTF).

The numerous hazards that threaten Georgia coupled with the varying degrees in which each of them could potentially impact the state call for a housing plan that is comprehensive, modular, and supported by all potential state and local agencies and organizations who are expected to play a major role in its implementation. For Informational Purposes: the State of Georgia and the GDHTF take a prioritized approach to planning for and supporting the disaster housing plans of local government

partners. Review the Georgia Disaster Housing Strategy and the Evacuation Shelter Plan Support Annex to the GEOP for more information. This document includes numerous federal and local agencies and organizations that are not included in the GEOP.

The State's prioritized approach to developing housing solutions is as follows:

- Build disaster housing capacity by identifying available housing resources throughout the state in support of local disaster housing plans.
- Develop, train, and maintain (manage) a cadre of housing specialists prepared to deploy to DRCs to provide direct assistance to disaster survivors.
- Support capacity building, statewide awareness of and training for the State of Georgia's Rental Resource Database (<https://georgiahousingsearch.org/> or GHS for short).
- Provide disaster housing situational awareness to key leadership and partner agencies.
- Request and provide Federal assistance through possible IA-TAC programs for the construction of temporary housing units and facilities (e.g., Manufactured Home parks).

3.0 Organization and Assignment of Responsibilities

The Georgia Department of Human Services serves as the lead agency for ESF-6. The Department maintains an ESF Coordinator position and, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the American Red Cross, conducts ESF-6 planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

3.1 ESF Coordinator

ESF-6 Coordinator will ensure the following:

- Serve as the principal point of contact with ESF-6 from the Federal Regional Response Coordination Center.
- May be assigned support staff and have liaisons detailed to operate within a Joint Field Office (JFO) if established in Georgia.
- Coordinate issues regarding Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing and Human Services with local and federal partners as necessary.
- Monitor systems for availability, status, and population of approved shelter facilities during disasters.
- Attend applicable incident action planning meetings within the State Operations Center.
- Address requests for assistance from local jurisdictions regarding ESF-6 issues, and ensure necessary agencies and disciplines are kept informed of ongoing activities.
- Coordinate the activation and activities of agencies listed under ESF-6.
- Conduct situational assessments and identify resource requirements in close coordination with other ESFs and participating state and local partners.

- Provide ESF-6 liaisons to the Incident Management Assistance Team, JFO, and other incident locations when applicable.
- Identify, train, and maintain an adequate amount of personnel to support the State Emergency Operations Center.
- Contact and request activation of appropriate ESF-6 primary and support agencies when determined necessary.
- Distribute ESF-6 information to support agencies, as appropriate.
- Provide technical assistance to designated state and local agencies, as needed.
- Coordinate (DHS/Department of Family and Children Services) requests for issuance and distribution of DSNAP through the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Coordinate and provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance related to issues involving older adults and people with functional needs.
- Ensure accurate records are maintained for all ESF-6 activities. These records include but are not limited to personnel time, performance and injury records, purchase, payments, and any other financial documentation. These documents shall be forwarded through GEMA/HS for proper reimbursement or disposition.
- As the primary coordinating agency for ESF-6, DHS will identify initial needs and ensure that the requested and necessary support is in place for the ESF-6 support agencies to execute their missions to include requests for assistance, activation of pre-scripted mission assignments, and issuance of mission assignments.

3.2 Primary Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS)

- Will designate official(s) to coordinate ESF-6 responsibilities within the state and with federal ESF-6 representative(s). This state official will:
 - Serve as the principal point of contact with ESF-6 from the Federal Regional Response Coordination Center.
 - May be assigned support staff and have liaisons detailed to operate within a JFO if established in Georgia.
 - Coordinate issues regarding, Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing and Human Services with local and federal partners as necessary.
 - Monitor systems for availability, status, and population of approved shelter facilities during disasters.
 - Attend applicable incident action planning meetings within the State Operations Center.
 - Address requests for assistance from local jurisdictions regarding ESF-6 issues, and ensure necessary agencies and disciplines are kept informed of ongoing activities.
 - Coordinate the activation and activities of agencies listed under this ESF.
 - Conduct situational assessments and identify resource requirements in close coordination with other ESFs and participating state and local partners.

- Provide ESF-6 liaisons to the Incident Management Assistance Team, JFO, and other incident locations when applicable.
- Identify, train, and maintain an adequate amount of personnel to support shelter operations statewide.
- Contact and request activation of appropriate ESF-6 primary and support agencies when determined necessary.
- Distribute ESF-6 information to support agencies, as appropriate.
- Provide technical assistance to designated state and local agencies, as needed.
- Coordinate requests for issuance and distribution of the Disaster Food Stamp Programs through the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Coordinate and provide subject matter expertise and technical assistance related to issues involving older adults and people with disabilities.
- Ensure accurate records are maintained for all ESF-6 activities, these records include but are not limited to personnel time, performance and injury records, purchase, payments, and any other financial documentation. These documents shall be forwarded through GEMA/HS for proper reimbursement or disposition.
- As the primary coordinating agency for ESF-6, DHS will identify initial needs and ensure that the requested and necessary support is in place for the ESF-6 support agencies to execute their missions to include requests for assistance, activation of pre-scripted mission assignments, and issuance of mission assignments.

3.3 Support Agency Assignment of Responsibilities

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

- Provide housing counseling and assistance to disaster victims regarding eligibility and information on available affordable housing opportunities.
- Coordinate Section 8 rental assistance vouchers.
- Complete DRC situational awareness reports.
- Utilize <https://georgiahousingsearch.org/> to provide available rental unit counts in impacted areas and adjacent counties.

American Red Cross

- Provides subject matter experts to coordinate the opening, registration, and operation of shelters for the general population to include the provision of services for individuals with access and functional needs.
- Provides basic food operations and bulk distribution of essential basic supplies (food, water, basic hygiene) to assist impacted residents.
- Coordinates with local emergency management officials to identify, inspect, approve, and inventory adequate shelters within the state of Georgia following an all-hazards model.

Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

- Facilities.
- Personnel.

Emergency Preparedness Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults

- Provides technical guidance and assistance on issues related to individuals with access and functional needs.
- Provide Subject Matter Expertise.

Georgia Building Authority

- Coordinates with other ESFs to deliver adequate resources, including buildings, equipment, transportation, and communication devices to facilitate the delivery of human services through ESF-6.

Georgia Department of Administrative Services

- Procurement and Contracting Expertise.
- Works with GEMA/HS Public Affairs to ensure American Sign Language interpreters are provided for emergency press conferences.

Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Oversees the coordination of sheltering and transportation of pets and animals dislocated by disasters.
- Assists with the coordination of requests for issuance and distribution of the Disaster Food Stamp Programs through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Georgia Department of Defense

- Emergency Food.
- Equipment.
- Facilities.
- First Aid.
- Personnel.

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Assists with the coordination of crisis counselors and other personnel with expertise in behavioral health and developmental disabilities for mass care operations to include, but not limited to, providing liaisons to shelters and DRCs and assisting with procurement and coordination of resources to assist impacted residents.

Georgia Department of Economic Development

- Provide assistance to ESF-6 in the dissemination of shelter locations and other related information to appropriate local and state visitor bureaus.
- Assist evacuees in locating available hotels/motels in non-impacted areas and providing additional resources as needed.

Georgia Department of Education

- Assists individuals and families displaced by disaster to enroll in public education programs to ensure continuity of education.

Georgia Department of Labor

- Coordinates the delivery of Disaster Unemployment Assistance through the United States Department of Labor.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Health and Sanitation Consultation.
- Personnel.
- Water Quality Control.

Georgia Department of Public Health

- Provides authorized nursing personnel or medical oversight to shelters, when necessary, through coordination with ESF-6.
- Provides qualified personnel from the Division of Health Protection, Environmental Health Branch to survey identified and potential facilities for use as shelters.
- Provides qualified personnel to assess opened shelters during a disaster to ensure facilities and staff are meeting health and sanitary guidelines.

Georgia Department of Transportation

- Equipment.
- Personnel.
- Vehicles.

Technical College System of Georgia

- Provides facilities and personnel when applicable to assist with mass care response.

Georgia Department of Veterans Services

- Coordinates services for eligible veteran's regarding continuity of pension or disability payments, medical care, adjustments to Veterans Administration backed home mortgages, death benefits, and survivor benefits.

Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

- Provides coordination and overall preparedness, response, and recovery guidance related to human service needs; provides leadership and coordination to voluntary organizations delivering human services and operating within the state response structure.
- Ensures the voluntary and donations management system and coordinators are informed of and deliver, when necessary, donated disaster relief supplies and manpower when applicable to support ESF-6 to meet human service needs.

- Ensures, through ESF-15, the dissemination of shelter information to the public during evacuations as well as the location of DRCs and other facilities providing human services to impacted residents.

4.0 Direction, Control, and Coordination

4.1 Information Collection and Dissemination

ESF-6 will report all activities to the ESF-5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of Incident Action Plans and Situational Reports. All public information reports regarding ESF-6 activities will be coordinated with ESF-15 External Affairs.

When ESF-6 is activated, the Georgia Department of Public Health, with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and responds to requests for assistance with the management and or maintenance of Georgia's emergency health and medical processes and planning or technical assistance from impacted local, state, or federal agencies or other ESFs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF-6 may provide personnel to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to JFOs, Joint Information Centers, DRCs, and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

4.2 Communications and Documentation

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP.

All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF-6 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

4.3 Administration, Finance, and Logistics

In conjunction with ESF-7 Logistics, ESF-6 will develop, review, refine and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups, which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System.

Resource requirements will be primarily determined by affected County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Directors, working with assigned GEMA/HS Field Coordinators. Resource Requests flow from the County EMA Director (or the GEMA/HS Field Coordinator acting on his/her behalf) or other state agency to the SOC. Existing state resources, intrastate mutual aid, donations, Georgia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) provide the initial source of personnel, vehicles, equipment, supplies, and services to fulfill Resource Requests. Resource Requests that exceed the capability of these sources may be

fulfilled through state purchasing and contracting, interstate mutual aid or federal government assistance.

The GEOP ESF-7 Logistics Annex contains information on the provision of assets and resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, private-sector, or NGO procurement procedures, and requests for assistance to FEMA.

5.0 Plan Evaluation, Maintenance and Revision

5.1 Evaluation

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after-action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF-6 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF-6 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops, and conferences.

5.2 Maintenance and Revision

This ESF-6 Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. Also, the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports / Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.

6.0 Authorities and References

The authority for the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan is based on the Official Code of Georgia, Title 38, Section 3, Articles 1 through 3, known as the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, and is compliant with the National Incident Management System and supports the National Response Framework.

O.C.G.A. § 38-3-1, to § 38-3-10, establishes legal authority for the development and maintenance of Georgia's Emergency Management Program and organization and defines the emergency powers, authorities, and responsibilities of the Governor and Director of GEMA/HS. Moreover, the State's Emergency Services and Disaster Laws require that state and local governments develop and maintain current Emergency Operations Plans to be prepared for a variety of natural and human-caused hazards. Executive Orders by the Governor supplement the laws and establish specific planning initiatives and requirements.