

### **Summary**

Citizen Corps is the grassroots movement to strengthen community safety and preparedness through increased civic engagement. Citizen Corps is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but implemented locally. Communities across the country have created Citizen Corps Councils as effective public-private partnerships to make their communities safer, more prepared, and more resilient when incidents occur.

### **Background**

Citizen Corps was launched in 2002 to build on existing networks to bring government and community leaders together to involve organizations and the public in all-hazards emergency planning, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Building on historic approaches to citizen preparedness, the Citizen Corps strategy is based on the following tenets: government must collaborate with civic leaders; preparedness should be inclusive of the whole community; local implementation is essential; and national support must include consistent policy and guidance, tools and resources adaptable for local use, and build awareness through a national voice.

To achieve this, FEMA works with state and local partners to establish effective Citizen Corps Councils at the local level to foster a collaborative process between local government and civic leaders from all sectors to develop goals and strategies for community resilience tailored to specific community and population needs and capabilities.

### **Goals and Objectives**

Citizen Corps Council objectives include engaging the whole community in collaborative community planning and capacity building, integration of community resources, outreach and localized preparedness education and training, emergency communications to all population segments, drills and exercises, and volunteer programs.

### **Description**

Citizen Corps strives to bring together government and community leaders and engage the public in all-hazards emergency preparedness. FEMA's Comprehensive Planning Guide 101 emphasizes the concept of community-based planning, "that planning must not only be representative of the actual population with the community, but also must involve the whole community in the planning process. The model below exemplifies Citizen Corps' collaborative, inclusive approach to community preparedness planning.

## National Partnership-Citizen Corps



### Requirements for Success

Attributes of successful Citizen Corps Councils, include:

- a commitment from elected officials and government leadership to participate in two-way interaction with the community;
- Strong vision and leadership for implementation
- Input and participation from civic leaders from all sectors
- Outreach through trusted organizations and networks to all segments of the community
- Shared responsibility and mutual benefit for participants
- Participating organizations contribute to common goals while retaining their own missions
- Resources to build and sustain engagement
- Clearly stated common goals and measurable annual objectives

### Resources

Citizen Corps has the following resources available through its partnership; A seat in the Emergency Operations Center; resources to help prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters; web resources; grants; and tools and templates.

## *National Partnership-Citizen Corps*

National Preparedness Resources:

- [FEMA Comprehensive Planning Guide \(CPG\) 101](#)
- [FEMA Preparedness Cycle and Resources](#)
- [Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program](#)
- [Emergency Management Training](#)

### **Training and Exercises**

Citizen Corps hosts and participates in joint training and exercises with the public and private sectors.

### **Communication Tools**

Citizen Corps uses the following methods of communication—email alerts; text messages; in-person meetings; conferences and other events; newsletter; teleconferences; video conferences; and website.

### **Links**

[www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

### **Contact Information**

[citizencorps@dhs.gov](mailto:citizencorps@dhs.gov)