Since its inception almost ten years ago, the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP) has blossomed into a sprawling network through regular participation in many work groups. There are many ways we can engage with our local, state, tribal, and national partners in inclusive emergency planning for people with disabilities and those with different types of access and functional needs (AFN). Here are some of the major partners we work with.

**Emergency Service Function (ESF) #6**

*Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, & Human Services*

Every month CIEP joins its state partners in a monthly **Emergency Service Function (ESF) #6 Huddle** hosted by Emergency Management Division (EMD). Generally, emergency management agencies and their partners are organized into 15
emergency service functions (ESFs). **ESF #6 (Mass Care)** also includes Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services with the coordination and provision of life-sustaining resources such as feeding and hydration, essential services, and statutorily required programs when the needs of disaster survivors exceed the local (county or tribal) government capabilities.

**FEMA Region 10 Individual Assistance (IA)**

FEMA – Region 10 hosts a similar ESF #6 call with regional representatives from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington plus tribal nations. During active disasters, we meet more frequently. Recently, we discussed about FEMA's reforms in the Individual Assistance (IA) program that will expedite funds to repair homes damaged in disasters and enhance accessibility features such as ramps, even if the disability was not caused by the disaster itself. FEMA has recently allowed IA support for the survivors of the August 2023 wildfires near Spokane.

**ESF #2**

Telecommunications/Information Systems and Warning & **ESF #15 External Affairs**
CIEP sometimes interacts with ESF #2 (Communications) and ESF #15 (External Affairs) to ensure accessible notifications to the whole community. Our partners in the Washington Emergency Communications Coordination Working Group (WECCWG) is a community of professionals working together to provide reliable and resilient emergency communications throughout Washington State in times of crisis.

**ESF #8 Public Health, Medical, Mortuary Services**

During the COVID pandemic, CIEP collaborated heavily with Department of Health (DOH) in ESF #8 (Public Health) — Public Health, Medical, and Mortuary Services, which provides direction, coordinates procedures, and clarity of responsibility for statewide health and medical response during disasters. The mission of ESF #8 responders is to deliver critical response capability when and where it is needed to save lives and to minimize morbidity during times of crisis.
Since the end of the COVID pandemic, DOH has been on a mission to ensure that public health services in Washington State remain equitable among various community groups. DOH’s Disability and Access and Functional Needs (D-AFN) Community Collaborative Workgroup addresses the obstacles that many in our community face while attempting to access high quality healthcare. This workgroup takes a deep dive to look at how ongoing systemic public health barriers can adversely affect the intersectionality of different marginalized communities.

CIEP also works with three regional healthcare coalitions in Washington State who coordinate DOH’s public health emergency preparedness activities in the areas of community resilience, incident management, information management, countermeasures and mitigation, surge management, and bio surveillance. The coalitions are the Regional Emergency and Disaster (REDi) Health Care Coalition serving most counties east of the Cascades, and the Northwest Healthcare Response Network (NWHRN) serving all of Western Washington except for the Healthcare Alliance territory in southwest Washington.

For a complete list of ESF areas, go to Emergency Support Functions: Why are They Important?

State Emergency Repatriation Plan (SERP)

Outside of the ESF groups in EMD, CIEP is also represented in two state level long-term planning groups hosted by EMD. These
plans are updated regularly every few years. The **State Emergency Repatriation Plan (SERP)** describes the processes for coordination, notification, deployment, and delivery of Emergency Repatriation services in support of the U.S. Repatriation program during an Emergency Repatriation incident in Washington. These services assist U.S. citizens, their dependents, and other U.S. Department of State authorized persons once they arrive at a Port of Entry (POE) because of a coordinated evacuation or repatriation from a foreign country, due to epidemics, political unrest, or other trends that makes a country unsafe for Americans. The SeaTac International Airport (SEA) near Seattle is designated as the nearest major US port of entry for repatriates.

**Statewide Catastrophic Incident Planning Team (SC IPT)**

The second long-term planning group is the **Statewide Catastrophic Incident Planning Team (SC IPT)** which takes up where the Cascadia Rising exercises left off in June 2022. This tabletop/discussion exercise covered the impact to the Transportation Infrastructure and Mass Care starting at 96 hours post-quake, which was a continuation of the earlier 2016 Cascadia Rising Full Scale Exercise. SCIPT looks at how CIEP and other partners could stand up to perform their response activities.

**Pierce County Access & Functional Needs Coalition (AFN Coalition)**
On the local level, Pierce County Emergency Management hosts the AFN Coalition meetings each month for partners from different agencies in the Tacoma area. Here we share best AFN practices and seek to remedy gaps in emergency services. This group puts on an AFN Summit each year with training and exercises. CIEP plans to offer Emergency Gesture training this year to help responders bridge initial communication gaps with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, and those who use a different spoken language until professional interpreters become available at the scene. Pierce County is also home to the state’s first Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) that are deployed to assess shelter accessibility and to detect unmet AFN in survivors that come for disaster recovery services.

**King County Trusted Partner Network (TPN)**

The Trusted Partner Network (TPN) is a King County (Seattle metro area) effort to ensure that the whole community
receives critical lifesaving emergency alerts, regardless of whether they speak English or where they live. By partnering with trusted community leaders within every major language group, TPN creates links between King County’s emergency alert system, the non-English speaking populations, and other communities that it currently does not serve. CIEP stakeholders relay messages from TPN directly to people that use American Sign Language (ASL) and more than 27 identified spoken languages in the county to ensure full and equal access for the international multicultural communities.

**Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (PIDS)**

Our national network of advocates for people with disabilities are long-time supporters of the [Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies (PIDS)](http://www.pidstrategies.org) and other groups. PIDS has earned the respect of many federal officials as representing the voice of the disability community during the weekly national calls on Tuesdays at noon (PST). Also, PIDS meets daily to discuss COVID-19 and concurrent disasters as it has for the past four years.
The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), the United Voice of Independent Living in Rural America, has its own Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Committee. This committee was initiated to support Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs) in their efforts on emergency preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. This group meets monthly to share good practices and strategies, information and resources, and peer support before, during, and after disasters and emergencies.

Language and Accessibility for Alert Warning Workgroup (LAAWW)

The Language and Accessibility for Alert Warning Workgroup (LAAWW) is a group of representatives from public and nonprofit agencies working toward greater language and
disability access in emergency alert and warning systems in the United States, all states plus U.S. Territories, Tribal nations and local municipalities. Stakeholders in LAAWW are subject matter experts in emergency management, emergency alert and warning systems, language equity, disability access, public information, public health communication, and disaster communication. While many work for public agencies, community-based organizations are very welcome and encouraged to participate.

**Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference (PIEPC)**

The **Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference (PIEPC)** is known as one of the best emergency management conferences in America. In addition to overseeing AFN issues during the annual conference, CIEP works with different subcommittees to help decide what types of workshops should be considered for the conference and the PIEPC monthly webinars. At the upcoming conference during the first week of April, Todd Holloway and Jim House will host the annual AFN Town Hall where they will provide updates on AFN programs throughout the Evergreen State. This year, WASILC and CIEP will share an exhibit
booth with the Washington State Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to promote the new **ASL Emergency Alert** videos.

**Conclusion:**

There are many more workgroups that CIEP participates in. This important task of networking is shared by members of the CIEP Advisory Group who report back during the monthly stakeholder calls. If you know of another group that serves people with access and functional needs in inclusive emergency planning, do let us know so we can ensure that our stakeholders can have a seat at the table. Remember, it is **Nothing About Us Without Us!**

**COMING EVENTS:**

(All events in Pacific Time Zone)

**CIEP Monthly Stakeholder Calls (AFN Response to Disasters)**

**WHEN:** First Wednesday from 10:00am-11:00am

**WHERE:** [Zoom link](#) for upcoming monthly calls in 2024.

Email Jim.House@dshs.wa.gov for details and agenda.

**WASILC Quarterly Meeting Day 1**

**WHEN:** Thur. April 11th at 9am–4pm

**WHERE:** SPOKANE COURTYARD  
Meeting Room B  
401 N Riverpoint Blvd.  
Spokane, WA  99202
Join Zoom Meeting [https://dshs-telehealth.zoom.us/j/81085570433?pwd=Yzc0dmxpSjFhRHRNcjFwQWtSOEFjUT09](https://dshs-telehealth.zoom.us/j/81085570433?pwd=Yzc0dmxpSjFhRHRNcjFwQWtSOEFjUT09)

Meeting ID: 810 8557 0433 / Passcode: 668745

Email [WASILC@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:WASILC@dshs.wa.gov) for details.

**WASILC Quarterly Meeting Day 1**

**WHEN:** Fri. April 12th at 9am–12pm

**WHERE:** SPOKANE COURTYARD

Meeting Room B

401 N Riverpoint Blvd.

Spokane, WA  99202

Join Zoom Meeting [https://dshs-telehealth.zoom.us/j/88293345074?pwd=TnczNk5iS2ZYM1BqdW9vamcwWWF2QT09](https://dshs-telehealth.zoom.us/j/88293345074?pwd=TnczNk5iS2ZYM1BqdW9vamcwWWF2QT09)

Meeting ID: 882 9334 5074 / Passcode: 321938

Email [WASILC@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:WASILC@dshs.wa.gov) for details.

**ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT:**

We are working to make CIEP and WASILC meetings more accessible in the following ways: ASL interpreting and live CART captioning. We will invite cameras on and off as needed for accessibility (example: on, if possible, when communicating; off as needed to reduce visual distractions and improve bandwidth). We will check in with the group about accessibility practices as we go along. For other reasonable accommodation requests, please email us as early as possible.
For CIEP and WASILC publications and services, we truly welcome all feedback about the features and accessibility or our CIEP ALERT quarterly newsletter and other WASILC materials! For subscriptions and back issues, go to WASILC & CIEP Newsletters

ABOUT CIEP:

CIEP is a statewide advisory group that brings expertise into disaster planning based on access and functional needs (AFN) faced by people with disabilities and other marginalized populations in three major areas:

1) Effective Communications
2) Programmatic Access
3) Physical Access.

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Online AFN Resources: Additional WASILC Resources