In the aftermath of a severe disaster, long after responders come to your rescue and stabilize your community, the recovery phase begins to take shape. Similar to the Emergency Service Functions, the Washington Restoration Framework breaks down the Recovery Support Functions into different categories. CIEP recently had the opportunity to review the state plan for the Social Services Recovery Support Function (SS RSF).

The SS RSF outlines the roles, responsibilities, and programs of social services organizations including nongovernmental partners to leverage resources in support of restoring and enhancing social services in the state. The social services sector of a community is broad-based and overlaps with and supports other critical community components such as housing, jobs, schools, and infrastructure. The SS RSF provides a platform for social services entities to leverage their resources, identify community needs, share information and create unified recovery priorities that may be incorporated with other regional, state, or local activated RSFs or recovery planning processes taking place post-disaster. The social capital of a community, or the extent of social services, networks, and activities existent in a community pre-disaster, directly relates to the resilience of a community post-disaster. The SS RSF capitalizes on the existing social services networks by incorporating behavioral health and social services professionals.
and subject matter experts in the recovery process to support a healthy and resilient community.

As a collaborative effort between local government, state government, community based non-government organizations, and citizen volunteers begin to collaborate, the resulting Social Services RSF focuses on the restoration of social service/activities (e.g. child care, foster care, behavioral health services, schools), and the well-being of the whole community following an incident. In addition to this Primary Core Capability, this RSF also addresses Public Information and Warning, and Operational Coordination as Support Core Capabilities.

The RSF draws on the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Plan and many other documents from other state agencies to guide its proposed work plan. One such document is the WASILC State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Fiscal Year 2020. In the SPIL, Goal 2—Objective 2.1 says:

...work collaboratively by providing inclusive technical assistance to build disability inclusion in all aspects of emergency management. This is achieved through, among other activities, support and guidance provided by the State Independent Living Council (SILC) to ensure continuing development of inclusive emergency planning, response, and recovery.

Within this parameter, CIEP was invited by Quinn Butler, Recovery Coordinator at the Washington Emergency Management Division to provide comments and edits to the RSF and make it more inclusive. As our stakeholders began to review the document, it became clear that we needed to strengthen the consideration of Access and Functional Needs throughout the whole community in order for this RSF document to have a meaningful impact on people with disabilities. Emergency planners need to consider our access needs in the recovery phase within the functional categories of Communication, Maintaining Health, Independence, Support & Safety, and Transportation, also known as the C-MIST Framework.

The comments provided by CIEP addresses possible barriers in accessing social services by people with disabilities due to economic disadvantages, language and literacy barriers, geographical or cultural isolation, and physical access. In addition to people with disabilities, full consideration of access and functional needs also benefits those individuals who are newly homeless, isolated, or displaced. Effective communication brings vital access to information for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and others with limited or no broadband internet access. Solutions to transportation gaps connect individuals and families impacted by the disaster and are unable to travel independently on their own.

CIEP appreciates this opportunity from the Washington Emergency Management Division to participate in this ongoing planning for the Whole Community.
CIEP is a statewide advisory group that brings expertise and perspectives into disaster planning based on access and functional needs (AFN) faced by people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in these areas: 1) Effective communications, 2) Programmatic Access, and 3) Physical Access. We welcome any suggestions for future issues of the CIEP Alert quarterly newsletter. Past issues are available upon request.

Contact CIEP:

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WASILC COUNCIL MEMBER RECRUITMENT

The Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) is authorized in federal law under the Rehabilitation Act and in Washington State by Executive Order 04-05. All members are appointed by the Governor, with a mandate that individuals with disabilities comprise at least 51% of Council membership. The mission of the Council is to promote the statewide Independent Living Network supporting the Independent Living Philosophy for people with all disabilities through systems advocacy, education, planning, and collaboration.

WASILC has four, two-day meetings per year (January, April, July, and October) in different areas of the state. Council subcommittees also establish work plans and meet monthly by conference call to coordinate their work. Prospective members should expect to commit about 6-8 hours per month to WASILC activities, such as reading and responding to emails, participating in subcommittee activities (generally by phone), and keeping up with what’s going on in your communities and statewide. Expenses incurred due to travel and lodging for WASILC related activities are reimbursable. The perfect candidate is someone with a disability or disability-related experience who is passionate about disability rights.

WASILC is recruiting for three council positions. Positions are open for individuals representing a person or family member with a disability or an individual representing a business. We are looking to increase representation from the following populations: central, eastern, and southwest WA, communities of color, and varied socio-economic backgrounds. Representatives will contribute their unique perspectives and insights on the opportunities, challenges, and barriers experienced by people with disabilities.

Coming Events:

**CIEP Networking Meetings**  
Note: All meetings begin at 10:00am and end at 11:30am.  
**WHEN:** 3/18/2020 and 6/17/2020  
**WHERE:** 4th Floor Conference Room in DVR Building at 4565 7th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503  
Agenda & PowerPoints will be online at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/460983877.  
Dial in at 571-317-3122 - Access Code: 460-983-877

**Washington State Independent Living Council Quarterly Meetings**  
**WHEN:** Thurs. 4/2/2020: 9:00am - 4:00pm & Fri. 4/3/2020: 9:00am - 2:00pm  
**WHERE:** Alliance of People with disAbilities 1401 E Jefferson St, # 506, Seattle WA 98122

On Thursday April 2 at 1:00pm, a panel discussion and public forum will be held to gather information and advice from the local disability community, consumers, service providers, and the public to highlight what is working in their area, as well as identify gaps and barriers. Call Jolie at 360.725.3693 for more information.

All CIEP Networking Meetings and WASILC Quarterly Meetings are open to everyone and fragrance-free. ASL interpreters and CART are provided. For other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact Jim House at HouseJ@dshs.wa.gov at least two weeks if possible prior to the meeting to ensure availability.