

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH ENHANCING COMMUNITY CAPACITY



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Heralding Unheard Voices



Published In December of 2006

Study conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Institute to learn from the experience of faith groups, recognize the roles played by these organizations, and to provide DHS with an understanding that will enable government to work more effectively with these organizations in future Disasters.

Year-Long Study specifically looking at work conducted during Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita

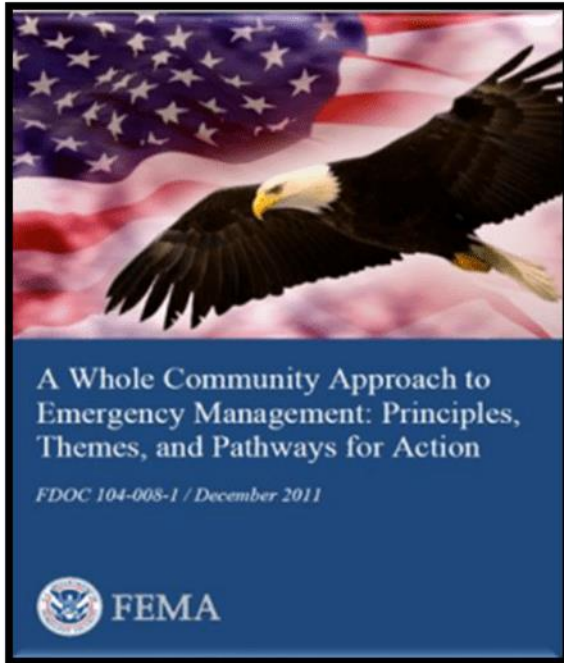
"The scale of their response was unprecedented. In many communities, they were the sole or lead provider of services for days or weeks. They made life-and-death differences in people's lives. They gave food to the hungry and vulnerable. They reduced suffering, facilitated restoration of infrastructure, and lessened the economic impact of the hurricanes by donating services and material resources."



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

National Dialogue on Whole Community Engagement



“Government can and will continue to serve disaster survivors. However, we fully recognize that a government-centric approach to disaster management will not be enough to meet the challenges posed by a catastrophic incident. That is why we must fully engage our entire societal capacity”



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Philosophy to Practice



83% of Americans are affiliated with a specific religious tradition

345,000 Congregations in the United States

60% of Americans first report to their religious leaders for direction following a disaster



USC
Dornsife
*Center for Religion
and Civic Culture*



National Disaster
Interfaiths Network

To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Virginia's Religious Landscape



Adults in Virginia

Religious composition of adults in Virginia

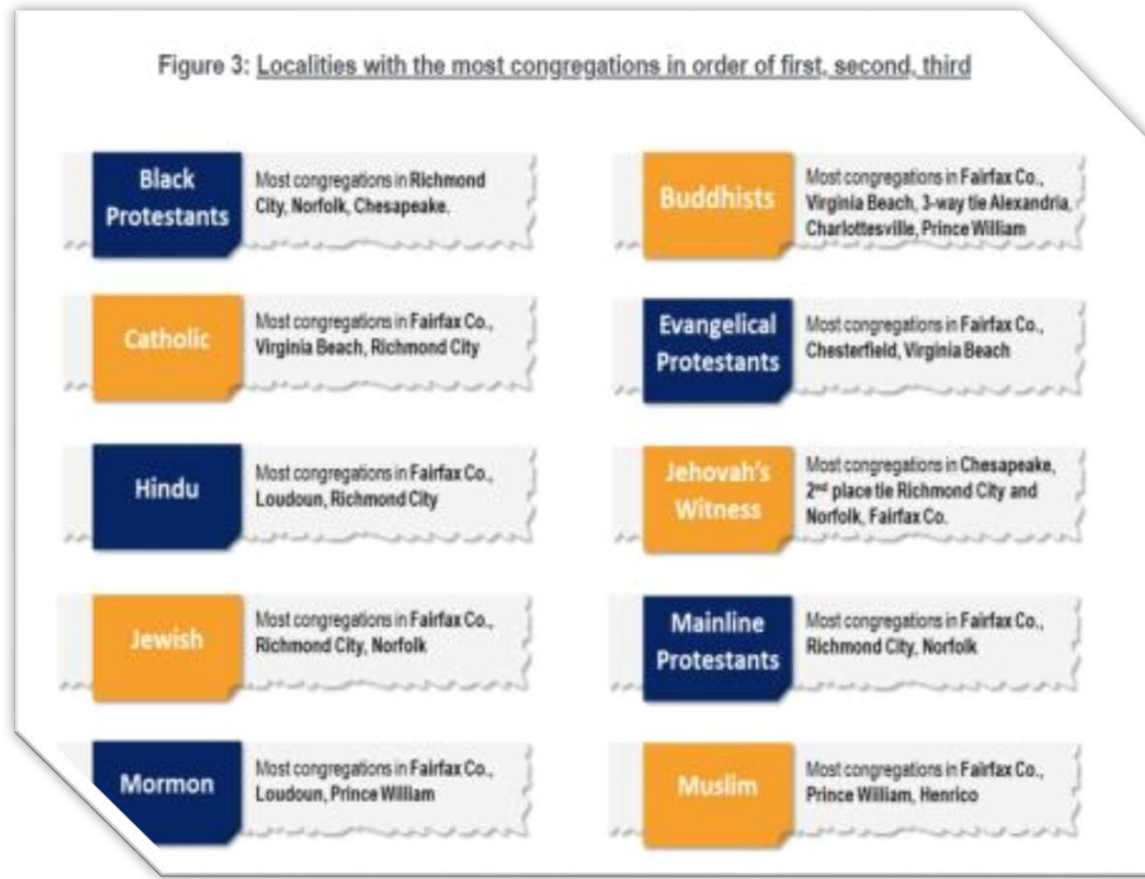
Christian	73%	Non-Christian Faiths	6%
▶ Evangelical Protestant	30%	Jewish	1%
▶ Mainline Protestant	16%	Muslim	1%
▶ Historically Black Protestant	12%	Buddhist	1%
Catholic	12%	Hindu	< 1%
▶ Mormon	2%	Other World Religions	< 1%
▼ Orthodox Christian	1%	▶ Other Faiths	1%
Greek Orthodox	1%	Unaffiliated (religious "nones")	20%
Russian Orthodox	< 1%	Atheist	2%
Orthodox Church in America	< 1%	Agnostic	4%
Other Orthodox Christian	< 1%	▶ Nothing in particular	15%
Jehovah's Witness	< 1%	Don't know	< 1%
▶ Other Christian	< 1%		



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

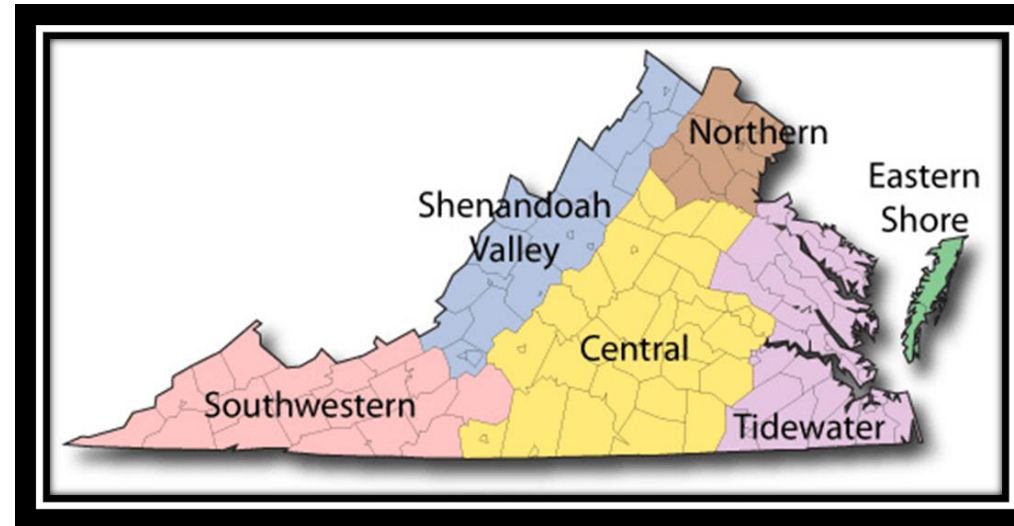
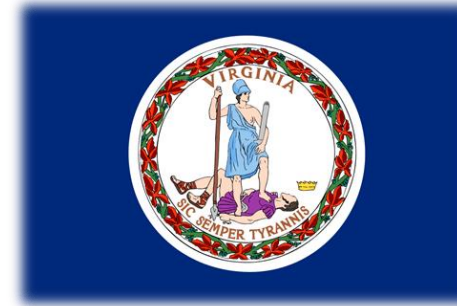
Virginia's Religious Landscape



Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Virginia's Threats and Hazards

- Coastal Storms
- Flooding
- Tornadoes
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Drought/Extreme Heat
- Winter Weather
- Wildfire
- Earthquakes
- Infectious Disease



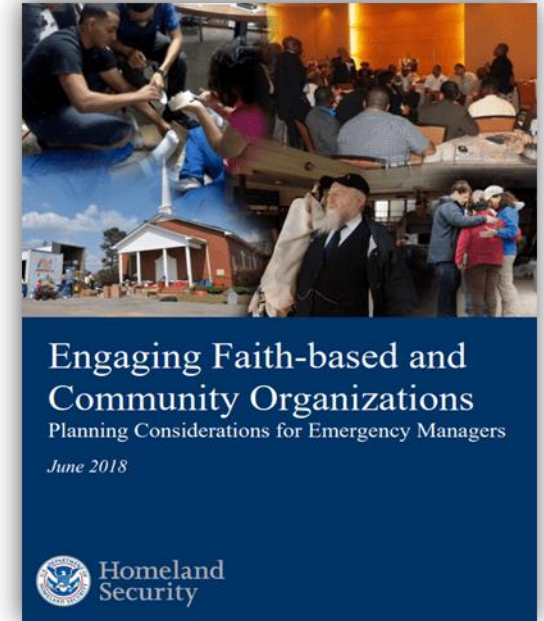
Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Preparedness/Engagement

A state of readiness to respond to a disaster, crisis or any other type of emergency situation



Assess your communities
Risks/Hazards and Vulnerabilities



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Response/Recovery



Local Congregation



Trusted Messengers



Mass Feeding



Spiritual Care



Sheltering



Human Services



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Case Study

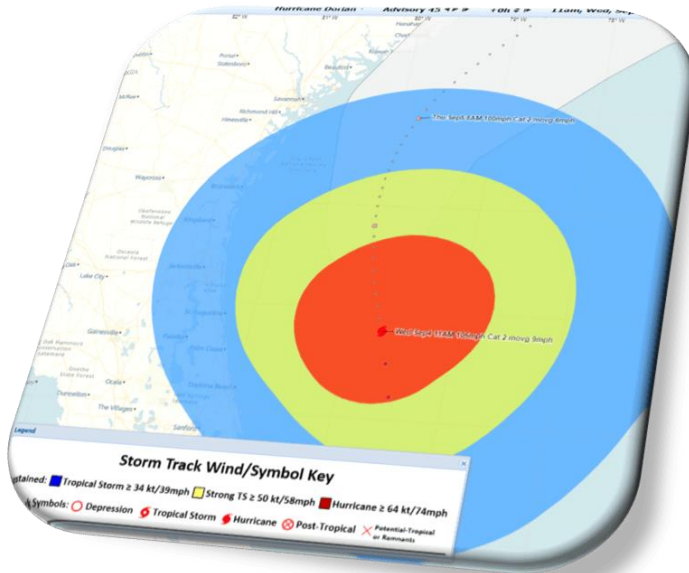
**Chatham Emergency Management Agency
Disaster Faith Network**



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Disasters Impacting Chatham County



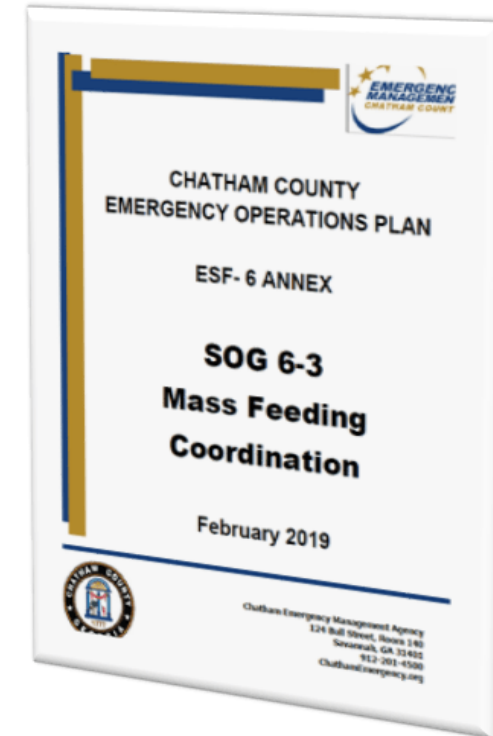
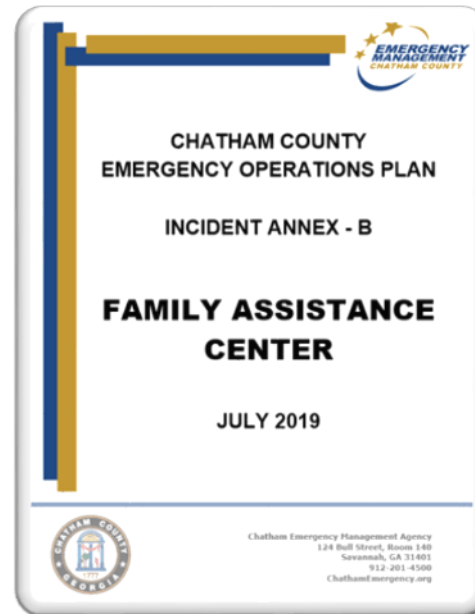
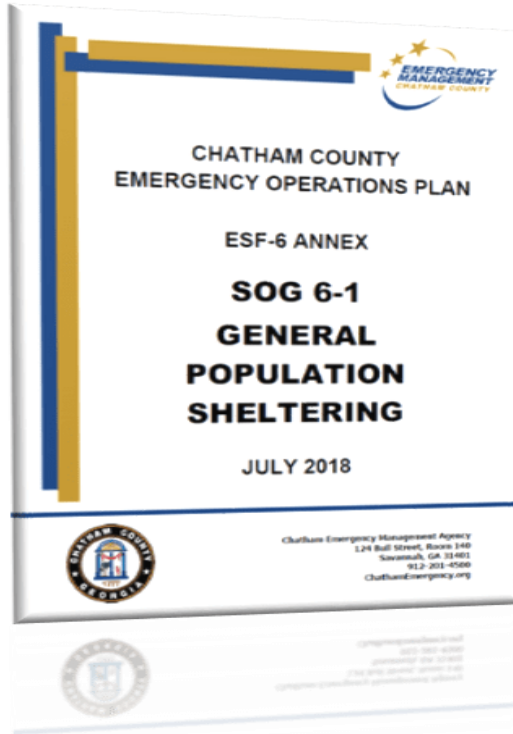
- Hurricane Matthew – October 2016
- Hurricane Irma – September 2017
- C-130 Military Plane Crash – May 2018
- Whitemarsh Island Tornado – July 2018
- Tropical Storm Florence – September 2018
- Tropical Storm Michael – October 2018
- Hurricane Dorian – August 2019



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Concurrent Planning Efforts



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

We Want To Help....But How?



- If we have people who want to help serve, who do we contact?
- We can provide food and water to those in need but not sure how to best advertise that?
- Our House of Worship has a large gymnasium area, could that help during a disaster?
- We have a commercial kitchen we would love to offer during a disaster?
- We used to attend meetings on disaster preparedness, are those still happening?
- Are there any trainings that will help our House of Worship Prepare for emergencies?
- Can CEMA come out and give us tips on developing an emergency plan for our House of Worship?



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Partnering For Prepared Communities



DHS Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Learn More: fema.gov/faith | dhs.gov/faith



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Chatham County Disaster Faith Network



Faith Based organizations within Chatham County are providing essential services to help members of our community find hope during their time of need.

Hope is described as not only the desire for something good to happen in the future, but rather the expectation that it will happen.

In times of crisis, Faith Based Organizations help communities find meaning and provide a foundation for recovery.

The Chatham County Disaster Faith Network serves as a platform for engaging our community Faith Based Organizations, fostering relationships and enhancing the emergency management program throughout the preparedness, response and recovery phases.



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Chatham County Disaster Faith Network Survey

Chatham County Disaster Faith Network Survey

Chatham County Disaster Faith Network

Capabilities Assessment Tool

In the event of a small or large scale incident / disaster, Chatham County may call upon community and faith-based organizations to assist with the response and recovery efforts. The following questions will assess your organization's capacity to support disaster response operations.

Survey designed to capture:

- House of Worship Demographic Information
- Capabilities Assessment Tool Focus:
 - Feeding
 - Sheltering
 - Spiritual Care
 - Volunteer Support
 - Outreach
- Needs Assessment Tool Focus:
 - Emergency Preparedness / Planning
 - Training / Exercise
 - NPSG Program (**over \$200,000**)
 - Community Emergency Alerts
- Points of Contact

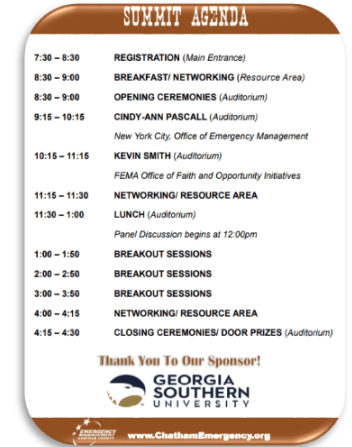
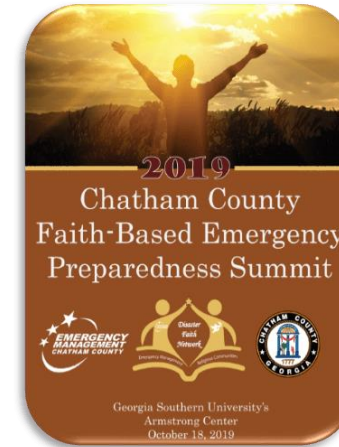


To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Faith-Based Emergency Preparedness Summit

- Incorporate Needs Expressed by Faith Based Organizations
- Advance Community Preparedness Efforts
- Expand the Local Emergency Management Program
- Develop Critical Community Relationships (**PARTNERSHIP**)
- Build the Chatham County Disaster Faith Network



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Real World Implementation



Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless mission is to lead the effort to build and sustain community practices to eliminate homelessness

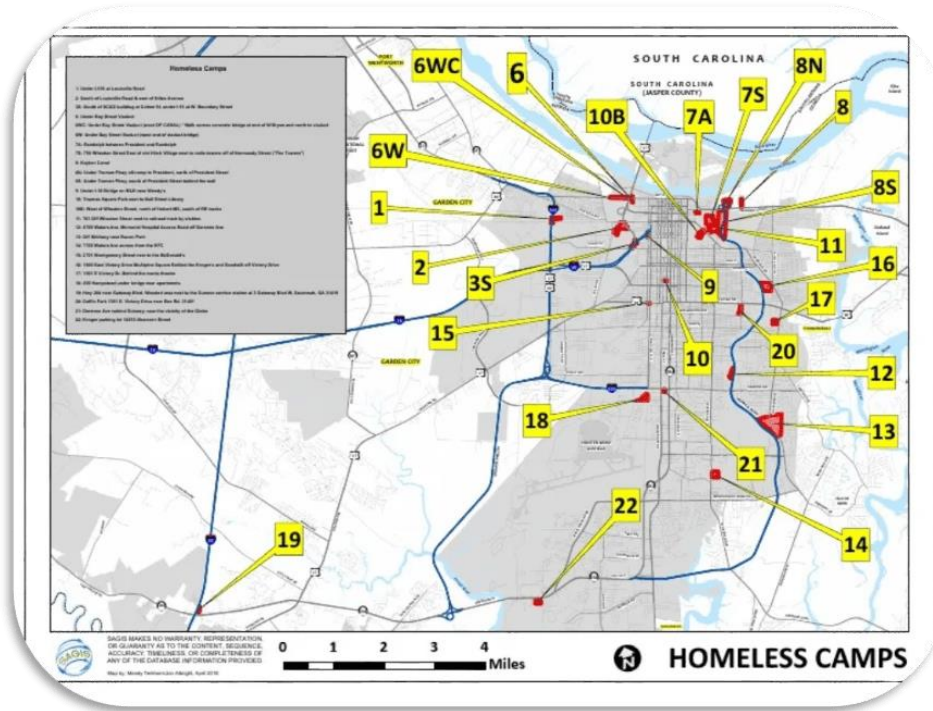
In partnership with the Continuum of Care (COC) entities, provides assistance to over 4,000 individuals, including youth and families

*about 20 entities in the COC

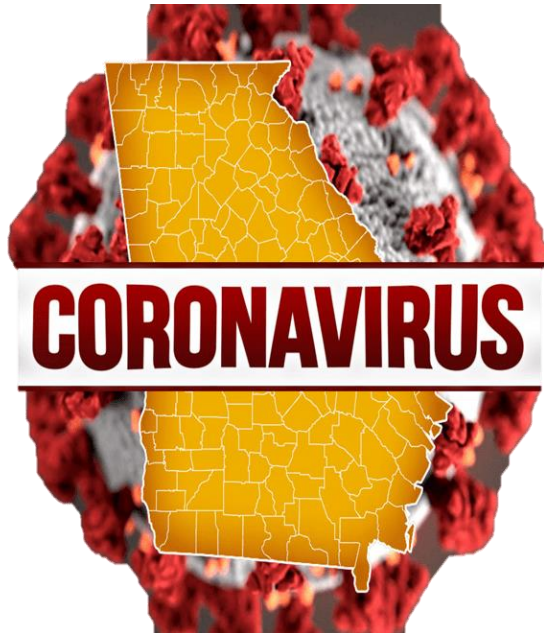


To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships



Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships



COVID – 19 Response

- March 20th 2020 – First Confirmed COVID Case in Chatham County **(Maintain SA)**
- **April 13th 2020** – Chatham County Disaster Faith Network implemented in Partnership with City of Savannah
 - Provide **400 meals daily** to Individuals experiencing homelessness **(July)**
 - Distribute **200 tents to individuals** to ensure social distancing
 - Continue provision of basic human service needs / medical monitoring services **(Hygiene Supplies)**
 - Establish Isolation shelter



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

Mass Feeding Operations



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

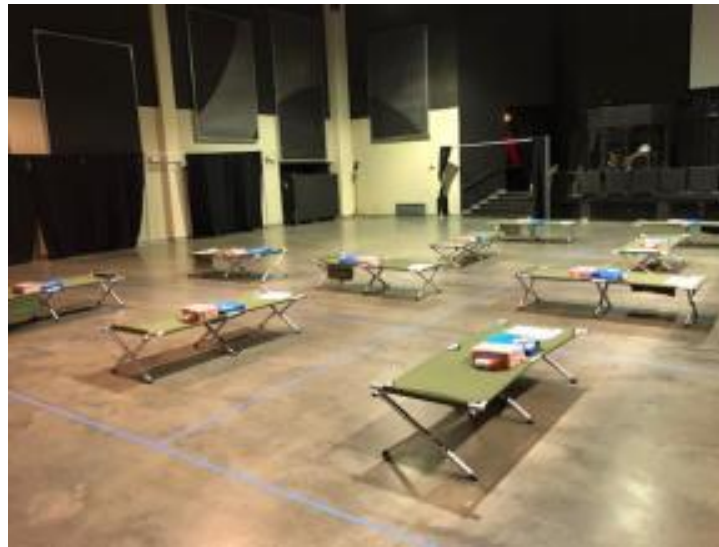


Provision of Basic Services



Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

COVID Shelter



Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

VEMA Faith Based Caucus



Faith-Based Caucus Vision Statement:

Building a more resilient Commonwealth through engagement, inclusion, and integration of the Faith-Based Community into the four pillars of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Faith-Based Caucus Goals:

Provide resources to local Emergency Managers to assist with integrating Faith-Based Organizations into local programs:

- Capability Assessment Survey
- Faith-Based Toolkit
- Federal Grant Funding Connections
- Safety / Security Training



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships



Get Involved

- Join the VEMA Faith-Based Caucus
- Utilize survey data to enhance community capacity through incorporating Faith-Based Organizations into local Emergency Preparedness and Response programs
- Share best practices / opportunities to collaborate
- Build a Faith Based Network – Locally, Regionally and across the Commonwealth!

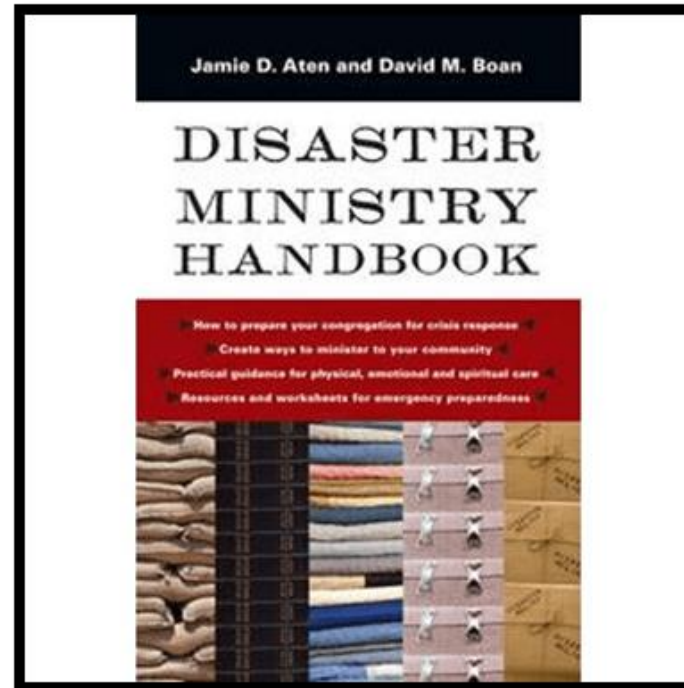


To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships



Dr. Jamie Aten
Wheaton College



"Faith communities play an integral role during times of crisis. They help build resilience by knowing and supporting their neighbors before disaster strikes and walk alongside them once other groups have left the disaster zone. Faith communities have a network like no other organization I've ever come across bringing people from all walks of life together. By investing in our faith communities and their capacity, we can help strengthen resilience."



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia

Best Practices: Faith Based Partnerships

QUESTIONS?

Michael Whiteaker, M.A., CEM, VaPEM, CHEC
Local Health Emergency Coordinator
VDH – Mount Rogers Health District
Michael.Whiteaker@vdh.virginia.gov

Chair, IAEM Faith Based Caucus
Chair, VEMA Faith Based Caucus



To provide a venue where participants are exposed to current information, research findings, practical tools and lessons learned from the COVID-19 response efforts to strengthen public health preparedness in Virginia