



# IOWA DISASTER HUMAN RESOURCE COUNCIL

We bring together faith-based, non-profit, and voluntary agencies as well as private sector and government agencies to foster a more effective response and recovery for the people of Iowa during times of disaster.

## WHY?

Building disaster resilient communities is an all-inclusive task. When we cooperate together we expedite recovery, alleviate suffering, empower survivors, and build a strong and resilient Iowa.

## HOW?

We provide a forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle (preparation, response, and recovery) to communicate timely disaster needs, coordinate resource, and collaborate on solutions to help disaster survivors and their communities across Iowa.

## JOIN US

To learn more about the IDHRC and become involved, contact us at [contact@idhrc.org](mailto:contact@idhrc.org) or visit our website at [iavoad.org](http://iavoad.org)

“**TOGETHER**  
WE RECOVER.”

## COMMUNICATION



## COOPERATION



## COORDINATION



## COLLABORATION





# Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

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## What is a COAD?

The concept of a COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) or a VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) is a nationwide initiative to assist communities in organizing and mobilizing the substantial existing resources present in organizations in their communities. Those resources are present in numerous non-profit organizations as well as in the business community.

A COAD/VOAD is a partnership organization that brings those community agencies, companies and resources together to support emergency management in the planning, collaboration and coordination efforts before, during and after a disaster or emergency in the community. The existence of an active COAD/VOAD organization will ensure that the community is better prepared for and responds more effectively to emergencies and disasters.

Additionally, a COAD/VOAD is an integral part of the short and long term recovery following a disaster.

## Who is in a COAD?

Partner agencies may include but are not limited to:

- Local and/or state emergency management agency (information sharing)
- Civic organizations
- Local governmental agencies
- Social service agencies
- University land grant extension programs
- Faith-based organizations
- Community foundations/organizations
- Community/public health organizations
- Information and referral services
- Mental/behavioral health agencies
- Disability organizations
- Private sector

A COAD can be organized in several ways based on the needs of the community. The COAD will be a collaborative working group in which all the participants are equal partners united by common goals. It is important to note, all organizations maintain their individual autonomy as members of the COAD.

# Steps to form a COAD

## GAUGE INTEREST AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

STEP 1: Engage in a conversation with the county Emergency Management Coordinator and discuss:

Interest in forming a COAD

County's history with COAD and LTRGs – what has existed in the past, key players

STEP 2: Determine if a COAD or local collaborative group(s) may already exist in this fashion

Reach out to Emergency Management Coordinator and organizations who have disaster response in their mission who may already know what is taking place in the county

STEP 3: Invite people in your area who are concerned about disaster preparation to meet together as a steering committee about forming a group

At the meeting discuss the why and how of being ready for all hazards

Develop a list of local or area organizations that should be invited to attend an informational and organizational meeting

## CONVENE AND FORM

STEP 4: Set informational meeting date and mail, e-mail or give personal invitations to the people on the list

Before the meeting:

Create an agenda that states the reason for the meeting

Engage in conversations with key attendees who would be good leaders for the COAD

At the meeting:

Have a presentation on the purpose of a COAD and the benefits that it will bring to the community

Based on the areas of interest from attendees, discuss possible areas of focus for COAD (ie spontaneous volunteers, donations, disaster mental health support, etc)

Poll attendees for interest in forming a COAD

If appropriate, elect a steering Committee

Set frequency of meetings

Possible topics for future meetings:

- Formal approval of the formation of the COAD & name
- Formation and adoption of bylaws and other documents
- Training opportunities
- Focus areas (can develop into committees/teams)
- Finances – reception and disbursement
- Disaster communications – social media
- Activation