



NIAGARA UNIVERSITY
**Emergency
Management**
Disability Awareness Training

Emergency Management Access and Functional Needs Disability Awareness Training Pineville, Louisiana

Niagara University Disability Awareness Training has received funding from the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council to educate anyone involved in emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery as it pertains to individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs. NU has tailored a presentation that identifies the responsibilities of both emergency management personnel and disability advocates during an emergency. This program will introduce the four modules necessary for proper response that include Disability Awareness Training, the Americans with Disabilities Act specific to Emergency management, emergency plan content, and Inclusive Planning and Active Participation. This program is also in Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota, and New York.

Topics to be Discussed:

- Disability Awareness specific to Emergency Management
- Access and Functional Needs defined to include Universal Design
- Understanding how the whole community concept is imperative to proper response to individuals with disabilities and how to involve them.
- FEMA Access and Functional Needs content
- The Americans with Disabilities Act relative to Emergency management and response.
- Community resources and other materials that assist Emergency Management in proper response
- Disaster Preparedness and Planning
- Inclusive Planning and Active Participation
- NYC Lawsuit and its ramifications nationwide

“The City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana realized in the wake of Hurricane Ida that we must center access and functional needs as part of our collective disaster preparedness and response. If major changes are not implemented, the calamitous loss of life in 2021 is all but guaranteed to repeat this hurricane season. Disability Rights Louisiana is eager to work with local and state governments to prevent future death and suffering due to a lack of adequate disaster planning and preparedness for the elderly and people with disabilities.”



For questions regarding this training or to request accommodations such as an ASL interpreter please email: carynewman@niagara.edu or call 716-286-8139

September 13-14, 2022 9:00am-5:00pm CST [Click Here to Register](#)

OR

September 14th, 2022 1:00pm-5:00pm CST [Click Here to Register](#)

Place: Kees Park Community Center
2450 Hwy 28 East
Pineville, LA 71360

Funding for this training has been provided by the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council



**Louisiana Developmental
Disabilities Council**



Niagara University Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training Inclusive Planning and Active Participation Specialist

Niagara University (NU), through funding from the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council (LA DDC) is addressing the on-going challenges emergency management (EM) faces regarding accurate and appropriate response to individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs as it relates to planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. This can only take place with the involvement of individuals in all aspects of the process.

NU has developed the role of Inclusive Planning and Active Participation (IPAP) Specialist. The individual will go through a 2 day training course. That will provide them the tools and resources to engage the disability community while working in conjunction with the EM personnel of the region. Their primary responsibility will be to recruit individuals to be active (active participants), assist in their role within the EM process, ensure recording of activities, and provide guidance and direction as needed. Independent Living Centers (ILCs) will be encouraged to have at least one IPAP Specialist.

The program will work as follows;

1. NU DAT has developed a working manual of which IPAPs and EM personnel, and those invested such as American Red Cross and Departments of Health, will be trained on its content and how to use it.
2. The training will consist of two days, with the afternoon of the second day being a training for individuals who are interested in being an active participant (AP). This training will allow for the connection to be made with the IPAP, EM, and AP. AP is defined as a presence on committees/councils/boards that address the needs of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs as it relates to planning, preparedness, response, and recovery. Other forms of active participation and inclusive planning include accessibility reviews, contact for EM on all topics specific or in general, disability-specific information to include outreach and networking, and direct advisement and consult.



3. All presence, participation, and activities carried out by IPAPs and APs should be tracked. This ensures a record of individuals' roles as well as holding EM accountable. Gaps in presence and planning will be noted and followed up by NU and its partners.
4. The content is broken down into four modules
 - a. Disability Awareness Training; providing base education as to how access and functional needs and disabilities may present and the needs specific to each as it relates to emergency and disaster planning and response.
 - b. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as it relates to EM. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) has clear guidance on EM within the ADA. This guidance will be utilized to educate EM. Application of this content is mandated by federal law. The three lawsuits against municipalities is examined and incorporated into the content, utilized as a tool to learn from.
 - c. Inclusive Planning and Active Participation is more than a concept. It is an expectation as identified through the FEMA Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC) and indicated in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Brooklyn Center for Independence, et al and the City of New York and other lawsuits. It is recognized that the **without** AP emergency planning is non-functional and detrimental to the lives of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.
 - d. The emergency plan and its content needs to have within it how to respond to individuals. Assumption that EMs should do this without guidance and direction is erroneous. Conversely, EMs are asking for assistance in how to ensure a comprehensive plan.

It is the intentions of this program to define emergency planning, preparedness, response mad recovery from both the emergency management role AND the disability community, leading to the Whole Community Planning process and the establishment of the Core Advisory Group, a FEMA concept that serves as an ultimate objective of the program.



Role of the IPAP Specialist

- I. Establish relationship with the County EM office and its main personnel.
- II. Identify the core advisory group (CAG), committee or council that has its primary role the topic of emergency planning.
 - A. Become a member of that CAG
 - B. Identify key representatives from across the disability community who may also be members
 - C. Infuse a presence that represents individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs
 1. This would include an eventual training on disability awareness
 2. Provision of tools and resources to the CAG (manual will contain all necessary components)
- III. Through recognition of the emergency manager, utilization of IPAP and APs in the review of all aspects related to planning, preparedness, response, and recovery
 - A. Accessibility reviews
 1. Shelters
 2. Disaster Recovery centers
 - B. Presence at Emergency Operation Center
 - C. Outreach
 1. Disability community
 2. Disability specific
 - D. Education

IPAP Specialists receive the entire program to include the working manual, three power point programs, and several tools and resources. The process to achieve the ultimate objective is on-going and calls for a commitment beyond the training and CAG sessions.

Project Director – David V. Whalen, Niagara University Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training frdat.niagara.edu 716-286-7355

David V. Whalen EM Bio

David Whalen has been in the field of disabilities since 1986, founding Disability Awareness Training in 2004, having presented some 650 times, 250 in the field of first/emergency response. He is the Project Director of the Niagara University First and Emergency Responder Disability Awareness Training program, creating the nation's only comprehensive training for law enforcement, fire fighters, emergency medical services, and 9-1-1 telecommunicators. He worked 17 years as an administrator at Niagara County (NY) ARC serving adults with developmental disabilities.

Dave's background in emergency planning, preparedness, response, and recovery includes chair of the New York State (NYS) Independent Living Council emergency preparedness committee, a FEMA Access and Functional Needs trainer, presenter at FEMA Get Real, NYS and Nebraska Emergency Managers Assn. conferences, sole-source funded by the NYS DDC to develop the state's program for Emergency Management Disability Awareness program, and an invitation to the White House for the March 2011 historic MOU signing between FEMA and the National Disability Rights Network. In 2020, NU was awarded grants from the Councils on Developmental Disabilities from Nebraska and Louisiana to address response to the disability community in disasters. In 2022, NU EM DAT received a three-year sole-source funded grant from the Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council and a one-year contract from the South Dakota Department of Health to provide the same program. Dave presented at the National Association on Councils on Developmental Disabilities 2018 conference on the topic as well as doing a national webinar (2020) for them. Nebraska Disability Rights currently has legislation in motion based on the intentions of the program model.

Dave works directly with FEMA Region II Office of Disability Integration and Coordination in setting up Core Advisory Groups (CAG). He established the NYS CAG in May 2021 and serves as the co-chair. He presented with Duke University for FEMA and their national webinar on mask wearing (Sept 2020) and the pandemic.

In April 2016, Dave was awarded Advocate of the Year from Deaf Access Services of WNY. In May 2021, WNY Independent Living Center awarded him the Elayne G. Wels Community Support Award. Niagara University awarded Dave the Vincentian Medal of Honor in September 2019 and St. Bonaventure University awarded him the Gaudete Medal in October 2021.

Dave and his wife Sandy live in Williamsville, NY and are the proud parents of their 24 year-old twins David and Rachel. David and Rachel were born 11 weeks premature, from that David has cerebral palsy, seizure disorder, and a learning disability. He has received his Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential from Williamsville South while Rachel graduated Summa Cum Laude from Cornell University, majoring in English Literature and minoring in Spanish. She graduated from New York University with her Masters in Fine Arts (2021). David works at Duff's Famous Chicken Wings and with his dad at Niagara University as an Office Assistant in the First Responders/Emergency Management DAT program.