

Long-Term Recovery Group (LTRG) Frequently Asked Questions

Developed from Tennessee Floods 2010 Revised TW 2015

This document is meant to provide best practices and FAQs related to the formation and operation of “unmet needs” committees, often called Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs).

What is a LTRG? LTRGs are groups of local voluntary, faith-based, and community organizations that join to address the disaster-related unmet needs of individuals and households.

Why encourage the community to develop a LTRG?

1. No one program can meet all the disaster-related recovery needs of the hardest impacted individuals and families
2. Collaboration among organizations increases capacity and efficiency as additional helping resources are brought to the table
3. Coordination is improved and the ability to manage available resources is enhanced and duplication of resources is minimized
4. Communities with LTRGs respond to and recover from disaster faster and more effectively
5. Additional donated disaster recovery funds are more readily available to a community if they have a LTRG to responding to specific disaster caused needs
6. Emergency management gains another “arrow for the quiver,”
7. A good Case management Program depends on the resources of a LTRG to provide resources to meet the needs of survivors
8. LTRGs provide the way for local agencies and organizations to lead the recovery process and provide a foundation for obtaining and managing outside resources

Who makes up a LTRG (with examples)? Local houses of worship, large denominational groups with a disaster mission, community services (Commission on Aging), social and human services. These groups represent the local capacity to bring resources to the table and then lead the effort to manage external donated and external service organizations.

How does a LTRG operate? The local board manages the LTRG, votes on the expenditure of “pooled” funds, and manages external resources such as national level agencies offering to help. Through the case management process, identified survivors receive advocacy services, support with recovery planning, and possible assistance from the human and financial resources available through the LTRG. . Additional partners such as emergency management, housing authorities, FEMA and others bring either local expertise and/or resources to the table and advise the board but are non-voting participants.

What role does local Emergency Management play on the LTRG? The best practice for local EMs is to provide advice and guidance on a consistent basis; EMs understand response and recovery resources available in the local community and can marshal the support of local government. A successful LTRG insists the support of EMs keeps them informed of the progress and challenges. An EM can use lessons learned in long-term recovery to prepare and improve the next response.

How does the group find clients? Several methods can be useful.

- A formal request to FEMA to share client contact information the FEMA VAL assigned to the disaster can assist with this
- Advertise and provide a phone number for people to call
- Conduct a to go door-to-door needs assessment in impacted areas

How does a survivor get assistance from a LTRG? The case manager will present a survivor’s disaster caused un-met need to the LTRG membership. Some members of the group maintain control of their own resources and can agree to assist with human, in kind or financial resources. The members of the group in collaboration provide all or parts of resources needed to assist the survivor including pooled funds belonging to the LTRG to provide the necessary resource.

Where can one get advice about LTRGs?

- The State Voluntary Agency Liaison or other government partner in that role
- National or State Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
- National and State VOAD partner Organizations
- FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaisons