



Connecting with your COAD, VOAD, and EMA

COAD

Community Organizations Active in Disaster

An organization, based within a community or geographic area that is composed of representatives from public, private and non-profit agencies. A COAD enhances the community's ability to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from disasters, ensuring that human needs are evaluated and addressed when disaster occurs

VOAD

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Local, state, and regional organizations made up of faith-based, community-based, and other nonprofit organizations that share knowledge and resources to help disaster survivors and their communities during disaster preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation.

EMA

Emergency Management Agency
The government entity responsible for emergency response and coordination on the local or state level.

*Other possible names: Division of Homeland Security;
Division/Department of Emergency Management; Civil Defense*

Moving Forward

Once you've established your relationship, continue to build your partnership by:

- Planning follow up meetings, information sharing, and collaborative goal setting
- Incorporate the State Service Commission in the State Emergency Plan
- Collaborate with the CNCS State Office to designate a specific AmeriCorps or Senior Corps program to establish and support Volunteer Reception Centers
- Engage in disaster related training events and simulations coordinated by the State EMA
- Explore possible grantee opportunities with the State EMA to focus on a particular disaster issue area

Talking Points

Common Ground

- All disaster are local
- The community is powerful when it takes ownership and responsibility
- Establish partnerships prior to disaster events
- Volunteers add value

Goals

- Introduce and understand national service
- Identify assets in your state portfolio that could enhance collective disaster response
- Share information about national resources

Materials to bring

- [National Service Assets in Disaster](#)
- [Your State National Service Assets in Disaster Sheet](#)
- [Disaster Services Brochure](#)