

Questions to Consider Regarding Christian Sheltering:

Guidelines for use:

This questionnaire is being provided to you as a service of Christian Emergency Network for other resources please visit: www.christianemergencynetwork.org

After prayer, this questionnaire is considered to be a beginning, a "care delivery processing tool", not a finished product. Our best experts say this is a good starting point for any denomination, church or person to consider before making commitments that are short or long range. This also, directs the next step into sharing the Gospel and does not end with the "good deed".

For purposes of collaboration, please fill out the following information and return it to CEN Chairman, Mary Marr to be invited to take the next step in a collaborative process.

For purposes of independent use, CEN asks that you do not print in full or in part any of the questionnaire without giving full credit to: Christian Emergency Network.

CEN welcomes your comments on how we may make this questionnaire even more effective to serve your needs best.

Name of Organization: _____

Denomination: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Shelter Contact Person if different: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Shelter Plan Basics:

1. How do we screen the counselors who will provide long-term guidance?
2. How do we train volunteers for a minimum of a two year commitment?
3. What kinds of supplies are needed? Determine need over ample supply?
4. How do we maintain privacy and security? Restrictions?
5. How do we determine if those being served are open to spiritual matters? (A stewardship issue so churches do not get hurt.)
6. How will people be grouped, singles with singles, males with males, families with families, children with children?
7. How do we communicate landlord/tenancy issues to avoid law suits?
8. How do we prevent those being served from losing federal funding if not registered properly?

9. Who truly wants to help from our denomination and will commit long-term? Do they have a track record of follow through? (Difference between sheltering and adoption.)
10. Have we thought about apartment sheltering rather than in-home sheltering?
11. Have we thought about the space in a home available and for how long?
12. Have we thought about providing quality of life for long term care? (i.e. enough beds, lighting, who will be at home and when for supervision, how will you deal with privacy issues?)
13. How will we deal with those with a criminal history?
14. Do we mix elderly in with other groups?
15. What volunteers will be needed and with what gift mix?
16. Do we understand what social services are available for those being served?

Administrative:

17. What did we do well already before this need came to us, that we could do without having to develop new infrastructure?
18. Would it be better to support another trusted source to respond? If so, who?
19. Is this the time to launch a business plan for our denomination? Or too late?
20. Do we know clearly what the federal government will provide, what will be reimbursed to the participating church and what will not be funded?
21. Do we already have a preparedness plan in place for the churches themselves who may participate, meaning evacuation drills, supplies, etc.?
22. Have our pastors prepared their potential congregations spiritually to become an outreach in this way? Have these churches done so before?
23. Have our pastors used the three part four week sermon series "Before, While and Since It Happened" to prepare their own congregations first before reaching out to others?
24. Since NVOAD is not a totally Christian based group, how do we know who to work with that will share Christ sensitively, not just physical supplies?
25. What is the process we are now following on this issue? Praying, assessing, seeking counsel, orderly, following protocol, utilizing resources well, infrastructure, detailed questions above answered.
26. Do we have plans in place, 30 days, 90 days, and 2 years – to address Hurricane Katrina alone?
27. Who is the main contact in your denomination for this issue being addressed?
28. Do we know what questions to ask to know if we have a sound plan? Screening for drugs, registering so as not to lose federal funds, housing single females with adult males, (basics above and more).
29. Do we know what others are already doing so you do not replicate?
30. Is this something we have done before or is this something our denomination wants to do long term, after this crisis is over?
31. Have we counted the cost of doing something we have never done before and what that would mean to our denomination? Effect of lawsuits, going off mission, strengths, and personnel needed?
32. If we have not, what could we do now since some of our churches have already made commitments without our knowledge?
33. If our denomination or churches do not have plans in place, will we use these questions to consider in the assessment process? Other questions?
34. If there are no denominational plans, what are the three top strengths we have in place now, that could contribute to a plan, if a sound one was in place?

35. What are our urgent needs, meaning in the next 24 hours to one week that need to be addressed? Prioritize them ABC.
36. Do we have a means in place now of communicating within our denomination that works well? Does our communication proceed from top down or from bottom up? Is the information communicated to everyone?
37. Are we willing to continue this process of communication and collaboration?
38. Would we want to meet in person for collaborative process to commence by telephone?
39. Would we want to meet in person for assignment coordination should the process lead to a collaborative plan? Stipulate when? Starting when?
40. Who would we want to facilitate an assignment meeting?