



DISASTER CHAPLAINCY

Spiritual and emotional impacts of disaster call for skilled response from trusted leaders and care providers. NYDIS trains and credentials disaster chaplains and spiritual care workers to volunteer during crises, at disaster sites, mass care facilities, and points of dispensing (POD).

NYC religious leaders who are trained to recognize and respond appropriately to some of the physiological, psychological and social effects of trauma on individuals and communities, along with the spiritual impact of trauma, can help promote healing and resilience in the aftermath of a disaster.

DISASTER CHAPLAIN AND SPIRITUAL CARE WORKER TRAINING

NYDIS' comprehensive interfaith curriculum recognizes that all religions and faith traditions contain elements that promote healing of the human spirit, and that effective spiritual care at a disaster site requires non-faith-specific interventions.

NYDIS prepares providers of all faith traditions to offer spiritual and emotional support to persons of any faith or no faith impacted by disaster - victims, rescue workers, families and friends of victims and rescue workers, volunteers and staff of relief organizations or agencies and the community at large.

NEW YORK CITY PROGRAM

The NYC program trains, credentials, and deploys chaplains and spiritual care workers in New York City, alongside the Medical Reserve Corps, which functions under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Trainings are offered throughout NYC.

NATIONAL TRAINING

The training curriculum is available also to a national audience, readily adaptable to local communities. Since credentialing and deployment of chaplains and spiritual care workers to disaster sites and mass care facilities are usually handled by local entities, these site-specific issues are dealt with only in a general way, and are not within NYDIS' purview.

PROFILE OF DEPLOYABLE DISASTER CHAPLAINS AND SPIRITUAL CARE WORKERS:

- **Respond sensitively to the needs of ALL** who are affected regardless of nationality race, religion, belief, class, or sexual orientation
- **Will not proselytize**, sermonize, or promote a particular religion or world view
- **Follow the Incident Command System structure**, respecting the chain of command
- **Recognize their personal and professional limits**, working closely with other disciplines such as Mental Health
- **Speak to the media only when authorized**, by their team leader



Continued on reverse

PARTICIPATE IN ONGOING TRAINING

Participants in the NYDIS DISASTER CHAPLAIN AND SPIRITUAL CARE WORKER PROGRAM learn:

- What to expect at disaster sites
- How to function as members of an interdisciplinary team within the Incident Command System
- How to provide Spiritual First Aid
- How to make appropriate assessments and referrals for mental health and other services
- How to care for themselves and their communities as they serve in crisis

TRAININGS LEADING TO CERTIFICATION

DISASTER CHAPLAIN CERTIFICATION:

This program prepares chaplains and credentialed religious leaders to provide spiritual and emotional care during deployment to disaster sites as well as within their own communities. The curriculum comprises four 4-hour modules, generally offered in a two-day session.

Fee: \$400.

The two Operations Modules include:

- Information on the various emotional and spiritual phases during the “life cycle” of a disaster
- Frameworks for developing appropriate interventions
- PCAID (Presence, Connect, Assessment, Intervention, Develop Plan of Care) technique for interventions (used by the Salvation Army)
- Practice in providing spiritual and emotional care in various disaster scenarios

The Mental Health Module focuses on:

- Phases of psychological reaction to disaster and their impact on behaviors, thoughts, and feelings
- Psychological First Aid as a simple, appropriate intervention which anyone can offer
- Indicators that referrals for professional mental health care may be appropriate

The Self-Care Module explores:

- The need for care providers to develop effective self-care practices
- Practices that minimize compassion fatigue (“the cost of caring”) and other stresses related to providing care in times of crisis
- Strategies to promote recovery and resiliency, especially through support systems that monitor, nourish and maintain self-care for individuals and communities

Prerequisites: Prior experience in “pastoral” or “counseling” settings and completion of a certified training in the Incident Command System (available on-line or through the NYDIS curriculum materials).

SPIRITUAL CARE WORKER CERTIFICATION: This program prepares “lay” leaders and caregivers to provide spiritual and emotional care during deployment to disaster sites such as mass care facilities, evacuation centers, and Point of Distribution (POD) sites, as well as within their own communities. This four-hour curriculum addresses each of the Modules listed above in a different format.

Fee: \$150.

TRAIN THE TRAINER CERTIFICATION: This program equips participants to train others in Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care. It will be offered nationally, enabling participants to train within their own faith community, wherever they may be located. This two-day training is for NYDIS-credentialed chaplains. (Pre-requisite: two-day Disaster Chaplain Training)

Fee: To Be Determined.

DISASTER CHAPLAIN SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION: This training equips participants to supervise disaster chaplains and spiritual care workers at disaster sites, mass care facilities, and points of dispensing (POD). Supervisors are trained to discern the need for chaplains at a disaster site, and to support their health and welfare during their deployment, as well as screen, train, schedule, deploy, and debrief disaster chaplains and spiritual care workers. This one-day training is for NYDIS-credentialed chaplains. (Pre-requisite: two-day Disaster Chaplain Training)

Fee: To Be Determined.



NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES

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FAITH COMMUNITIES BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

