

2023 Listening Session

Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference

Bringing people together to enhance their resilience to natural hazards

The 2023 listening session began with a recap of the 2022 session, where participants had been asked about their biggest priorities and research needs regarding natural hazards. Major takeaways from the 2022 session included resource concerns, supply chain disruptions, and building stability. In the 2023 session, **two questions were presented to participants with a focus on both public health and healthcare** where attendees shared insights through written and verbal responses.

What are your needs in public health and health care before, during, and after a disaster?

 Community education and outreach

 Communications and collaboration

 Medical services

 Planning

 Post-disaster recovery services

 Resource mapping and accessibility

 Situational awareness

 Workforce development

 Volunteer management

How can researchers best support you to address these disaster-related needs?

 Partnership development

 Cultural competency and respect

 Data and information sharing

 Community participation

Overall Takeaways

Participants expressed the need for **resource access, facilitation and partnerships, education** for communities and staff, and **rapid data collection** and access. This includes support for **partnership development, data sharing, and community training**. Furthermore, participants discussed challenges with communications to residents as well as long-term emergency response producing burnout among staff.

Examples

Several examples from the listening session are below for each identified topic

-  Education to prevent against diseases during an emergency, address generational trauma, expand resilience skills
-  Mutual aid across Tribes, multi-lingual communication support, accessible information, information system integration
-  Digitization of services, check-ins with highly vulnerable populations, prescription maintenance, distribution of medical supplies, alternative ways to deliver supplies
-  Establish emergency medical sites, digitized route mapping and schematics
-  Access to clean water, access to open outdoor spaces with traditional foods that can transition to places to go during and after disasters
-  Emergency medical supplies, funding for supplies, have a facility to store supplies
-  Near real-time health impacts, community feedback mechanisms
-  Workforce mental health, Tribal engagement training, electronic health records training, basic emergency management training for healthcare staff
-  Volunteer reserve community schematics, contact information for volunteers living near Reservations
-  Go to Tribes rather than Tribal members for data, coordinate information sharing across agencies, improve collaboration, support Tribal participation with funding
-  Prioritize community participation, strengthen understanding of Tribal populations, respect archaeological knowledge, educate agency staff to implement community priorities
-  Integrate Indigenous Knowledge into Tribal projects, create systems to share data between Tribal and non-Tribal entities, access to disability data, advertise emergency transportation routes, support mapping of liquefaction and infrastructure risk
-  Start a Medical Reserve Corps or Community Emergency Response Team involving youth, create opportunities for people with disabilities, community preparedness responder training, leadership coaching



Participants emphasized being acquainted with community members and identifying community information sources, which can expedite message dissemination. Others wanted community events where residents can directly ask questions to emergency managers. They also suggested hosting dinners and feeding people as a crucial way to facilitate gatherings. Further discussion highlighted the importance of using various communication strategies, given that older individuals may not use social media and younger individuals may disregard radio or newspapers. Finally, the participants underscored the need for contingency plans in case of power outages during events.

