



# Introducing the Legal Services Disaster Manual:

A tool for helping disaster survivors

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# Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Legal Help in Disaster Committee(LEHDCOM)

# The Partnership

The Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery was created by an executive order issued by Gov. Mel Carnahan after the Great Flood of 1993 to improve the coordination of response to the overwhelming human needs caused by that event. The Partnership was reaffirmed by [Executive Order 09-25](#) in September .



## The Executive Order has 8 duties and responsibilities:

**One** is to serve as the coordinating organization in concert with the State Emergency Management Agency for emergency human services functions in **natural disasters**.

### Committees

Access and Functional Needs Committee (AFNC)

Citizen Corps Committee (CC)

Disaster Case Management Committee (DCMC)

Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee (ESCC)

Faith-based Organization Disaster Initiative Committee (FaBODI)

Government Relations Committee

**Legal Help in Disasters Committee (LeHDComm)**

Missouri Community Recovery Coalition (MCRC)

## The Partnership Mission

The mission of the Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery (The Partnership) is to aid Missourians' recovery plans by developing and implementing a holistic approach to disaster recovery, maximizing public and private resources to facilitate an efficient and effective integrated system addressing human services, housing, infrastructure, community and economic development issues

## Vision Statement of The Partnership

The Partnership acts to enhance Missouri's ability to plan and prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recover from any disaster so that all Missourians, directly or indirectly affected, may be associated and empowered in their recovery.



## (LeHDComm)

- The legal aid programs began our participation with the committee beginning in 2012.
- Representatives from Each legal program in the state participated in developing the Missouri Legal Services Disaster Manual and the committee's standard operating procedures in order to be ready with legal assistance in times of natural disasters.



# Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

- The Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster
- Recovery (the Partnership) has created LEHDCOM to address the legal services needs of disaster survivors.
- LEHDCOM operates in all four phases of the emergency management cycle:
  - a. Mitigation
  - b. Preparedness
  - c. Response
  - d. Recovery

# Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

**1. Mitigation:** LEHDCOM will undertake projects that reduce the legal risks to which disaster survivors are vulnerable. Community disaster education of those who are vulnerable to disasters and the resultant potential legal consequences is one such project.

**2. Preparedness:** LEHDCOM will engage in the following preparedness activities

- a. Capacity and resource development
- b. Planning
- c. Training
- d. Exercises (if offered and appropriate)

# Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

## **3. Response: LEHDCOM will respond during disasters.**

- a. The Partnership and/or SEMA and LEHDCOM will determine the need to activate the LEHDCOM to coordinate response activities based upon the following:**
- b. 1. Needs expressed by Partnership and Missouri Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (MO VOAD)**
  - 2. Needs expressed by affected communities**
  - 3. Calls and information received by LEHDCOM members.**
  - 4. If activation is required, SEMA will coordinate with the LEHDCOM leadership to determine the date time and type of meeting or conference call.**

## **4. Recovery: LEHDCOM will continue to support legal help to disaster survivors during the recovery phase.**

**Direction and Control:** During all phases of emergency management and especially during disasters , LEHDCOM will be directed by LEHDCOM leadership (either the appointed chair(s) or delegated coordinators. SEMA will provide technical advice and guidance. The Partnership will provide overall strategic direction.