



# Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) Overview

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, building on programs developed in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties, is leading a statewide initiative to identify, recruit, and train state, regional, and local Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) in support of local and tribal government in sheltering people who have been displaced from their homes during a disaster.

In the aftermath of several national and local disasters, it became clear that preparation and planning, in particular for sheltering people with access and functional needs, requires improvement. One resource under development that can be a key component of the sheltering plan is the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST), modeled after systems developed by the State of California and being adopted by other states. A FAST is a team of 2-8 trained members that:

- May be requested by response staff when it becomes evident that people displaced from their homes may have access or functional needs.
- Evaluates the needs that people may have and determines whether they can be supported within the reception center or shelter.
- Helps response staff distinguish people who have access and functional needs from those who have medical needs.

A FAST may consist of trained:

- Government employees.
- Non-governmental personnel (such as Medical Reserve Corps, medical and behavioral health volunteers, advocacy organizations, faith-based groups, etc.)

In addition to conducting assessments, the FAST facilitates the process of identifying essential resources needed by the people displaced from their homes that have access and functional needs, such as:

- Durable medical equipment (DME) or durable medical supplies (DMS).
- Prescribed medications.
- Communications assistance.
- Transportation.
- A person to assist with essential activities of daily living.

FAST consists of members with the collective knowledge, skills, and ability and at least two years' experience working in the following areas:

- Aging (services/supports, including dietary needs).
- Chronic health conditions.
- Developmental and other cognitive disabilities.
- Hearing or vision loss.
- Behavioral health needs.
- Physical concerns.
- And other needs people might have in communications, transportation, maintaining independence, and safety and assistance during a disaster.

For more information, call local FAST lead contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Or Jan Devore, WI Department of Health Services: 608-264-6303

