



## Disaster Survivor Assistance

### What is Disaster Survivor Assistance?

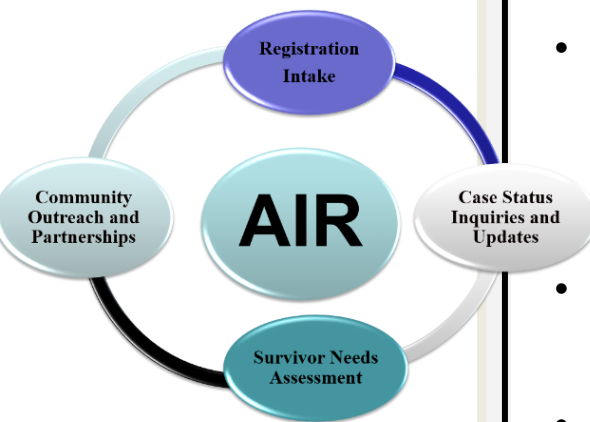
The mission of the Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) cadre is to build and sustain a team that can go into disaster-impacted areas in a timely manner. DSA primarily focuses on addressing the needs of disproportionately impacted populations and disaster survivors by:

- Collecting information that supports leadership and operational decision-making.
- Providing accessible, in-person case-specific information and referrals.
- Providing survivors with referrals to disaster assistance partners.
- Identifying communications gaps to ensure all survivors have messaging that meets their specific needs.



### 5 Essential Functions of DSA

- **Assess, Inform, and Report (AIR):**
  - Assess, inform, and report critical and emerging disaster needs to the Operations Section and other Joint Field Office (JFO) leadership for decision-making purposes.
- **On-site Registration Intake**
  - Register survivors for disaster assistance, provide guidance through the registration process, and offer an overview of FEMA disaster assistance.
- **Case Status Updates and Inquiries**
  - Review survivors' applications on-site, provide basic information about application status, other eligible assistance, and collect new information or documents for case files.
- **Survivor Needs Assessment**
  - Engage disaster survivors and local officials in identifying immediate unmet needs for a quick resolution via FEMA and/or our disaster assistance partners.
- **Community Outreach and Partnerships**
  - Conduct community outreach and create partnerships with the local, state, tribal or territorial emergency managers, disability partners, private sector, voluntary agencies, faith-based and community-based organizations to foster a culture of strengthened alliances to support the delivery of inclusive, equitable services to survivors.



*DSA is a professional, mobile “force multiplier” that supports Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial requirements in the field. DSA can quickly deploy in advance of, or immediately following, a Presidential Disaster Declaration.*

## Helping Survivors through Mobile Technology



DSA crews use tablets and other mobile reporting tools to enhance their capabilities. These tools allow DSA to bring services directly to the survivors who need the most help.

- Hand-held tablets let DSA register survivors at home, work, shelters, hotels or wherever they may be.
- The Survivor Mobile Application Reporting Tool (SMART) uses mobile geo-tagging and photo-capable devices in the field.
- Gives FEMA leaders an instant picture of critical and emerging needs and the overall pulse of the impacted communities.
- Automates information flow, reduces errors and need for paper maps.



To learn more about FEMA, please visit [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

To learn more about Ready Campaign (America’s emergency preparation site), please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

*FEMA’s Mission: Helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

**May 2019**