LAP-AID

LINN AREA PARTNERS ACTIVE IN DISASTER

WHAT IS LAP-AID?

Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster (LAP-AID) brings together more than 30 local health and human service providers, government agencies, funding sources, and faith-based organizations. LAP-AID builds a better-prepared and more resilient Linn County by reducing duplicated services and inefficiencies during disasters. Their goal is to empower communities, expedite response, improve management of volunteers and donations, and provide resources for long-term recovery.

HISTORY

LAP-AID formed as a response to the 2008 flood. More than 70 organizations brought approximately $20.5 million in resources and services to Linn County. Following 2008, LAP-AID:

- Coordinated 639 construction jobs
- Provided $1,296,001 in rebuild funding
- Helped 1,400 households receive $3,581,788 in Unmet Needs Grants
- Coordinated more than 664,756 hours of volunteer service, valued at $13,295,120, with Volunteer Reception Team and others
- Along with the Community Recovery Center and others, used Emergency Public Jobs Program to hire workers, creating jobs that generated more than $500,000

RESPONSE TEAMS PROVIDE AID IN TIMES OF NEED:

- Animal care
- Case advocacy/needs assessment
- Child care and children's services
- Communication
- Data management
- Information and referral
- Mass care

Timeline

2013

- Disaster Volunteer Coordination Team activated during Central City flooding

2014

- LAP-AID activated due to flash flooding in Linn County and high winds in Benton County
- Disaster Volunteer Coordination Team fulfilled storm clean-up needs
- Community organizations provided funding for case management; a partner agency coordinated these efforts
- 42 volunteers provided 170 hours

2016

- Cedar Rapids floods activated LAP-AID and Disaster Volunteer Coordination Team
- 2-1-1 served as community information and referral source
- Provided mental health support at shelters
- Introduced Legal Aid app
- Provided support at the EOC and City Incident Command Center
- Used special needs sheltering strategies
- Accomplished joint planning for transportation needs
- 263 volunteers provided 2,178 hours

2017

- Disaster Volunteer Coordination Team assisted recovery following Prairieburg tornado

- Medical service/Linn County Medical Reserve Corps
- Mental health
- Older adult/functional needs
- Disaster volunteer coordination
- Construction coordination
- Fundraising
- Interfaith spiritual care

HOW DOES LAP-AID ACTIVATE?

During emergencies, the Linn County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) activates LAP-AID. EMA is the coordinating agency during disasters.

When not involved in response, LAP-AID prepares for emergencies by participating in training and response drills. LAP-AID members hold quarterly meetings and serve on state and national preparedness workgroups.

FOUR PHASES OF DISASTER

1. MITIGATION: Prevent hazards from developing into disasters or reduce disaster effects

2. PREPAREDNESS: Change behavior to limit a disaster's impact

3. RESPONSE: Mobilize necessary emergency services and first responders

4. RECOVERY: Restore affected area to its previous state

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Organizations, businesses, and individuals can support LAP-AID by becoming members. There is no fee to become a member.

- LAP-AID is a communication network during disasters. For example, county response partners may identify a need like mental health support after a tornado. LAP-AID responds through the Mental Health Team comprised of local mental health agencies
- Faith-based organizations communicate with the Disaster Volunteer Coordination Team to assist households' needs
- Businesses offer post-disaster funding and volunteers. Resources assist impacted employees
- Individuals support teams such as Emergency Volunteer Centers

CONTACT INFORMATION

Disaster assistance
Call 2-1-1, toll free at 1-866-469-2211, or from any phone 319-739-4211.

Membership questions
Contact LAP-AID at 319-398-5372. Visit linndisasterinfo.com for a list of partnering agencies and more.