



North Carolina Functional Assessment Support Teams (FAST)

FAST Overview for Shelter Managers

Overview

During disaster responses across the nation, individuals with access and functional needs have come to general population shelters seeking assistance. Most individuals with access and functional needs can be accommodated in general population shelters with appropriate support. North Carolina Emergency Management has developed a Functional Assessment Support Team (FAST) program to assist the local government agencies and their partners in providing appropriate support to individuals with access and functional needs during disasters.

Who are FAST members?

- FAST members are trained social service professionals who have experience working with people with access and functional needs in one or more of the following areas: geriatrics, chronic health conditions, developmental or other cognitive disabilities, hearing or vision loss, behavioral health, physical concerns, and any other needs people might have in communications, transportation, maintaining independence or personal safety.
- FAST members will assess individuals to determine what types of support – resources and/or services - is needed to maintain their individual independence and safety in the shelter setting. FAST may request wheelchairs or other mobility devices, interpreters, personal care assistants, communication devices, or they may be able to locate assistive devices that are readily available in or around the shelters. FAST is responsible for identifying needs, and then getting the resources to meet those needs.
- When requested by County Emergency Management Coordinators, teams will deploy to affected communities or service sites to work with government and partner agencies ensuring all access and functional needs are met. To begin, FAST will deploy to shelters, but may also deploy to PODs, DRCs, or other sites where they may be needed.
- Resources that FAST may request (through Red Cross or jurisdictional EOCs) may include consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, personal care assistants, interpreter services, as well as others.

What to expect from FAST

1. Teams will have 2 to 6 members, and will have a Team Lead
2. Team members will communicate with the Team Lead, who will communicate with Shelter Manager or their designee (one point of contact)
3. FAST Lead will ask to meet with Shelter Manager when they first arrive for a briefing; they will ask about the resource request process, a location to set up within the shelter, and a general overview of the shelter operations
4. FAST Lead will ask about where to get information on self-identified people with access and functional needs and disabilities (those that identified at registration) and may ask to see the CMIST forms, if available

For more information contact:

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