



Disaster Mental Health Responder Training

TRAINING: Part 1 – Psychological First Aid (PFA)
DATE: Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 at 8:30am – 1:00pm
TRAINING: Part 2 – Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Practice (FDMHP)
DATE: Thursday, November 6th, 2025 at 8:30am – 4:00pm
LOCATION: Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI)
ADDRESS: 1099 Jay St, Bldg. J Suite 203A, Rochester, NY 14611
INSTRUCTORS: Cheri Reed-Watt and Elizabeth Kingsley-Curran

The Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEPR) is offering the Disaster Mental Health (DMH) Responder Curriculum to those interested in becoming a Disaster Mental Health Responder. The curriculum consists of 2 (two) parts: Part 1-Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Part 2- Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Practice (FDMHP). *Supervisor approval is required to attend both parts and deploy on a disaster response.*

Part 1: Psychological First Aid (PFA)

PFA enables participants to identify the early and expected stress reactions that may result from experiencing disasters, including those that may become more serious if unaddressed. PFA can be used with everyone – children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly; families and individuals; disaster survivors and professional responders.

Prerequisites: Professional mental health background.

Program Objectives

- Identify the range of typical reactions that we expect to see in survivors following a disaster.
- Explain why early support in the form of Psychological First Aid is helpful.
- List the elements of Psychological First Aid.
- Demonstrate competence through practice of Psychological First Aid elements.
- Manage their own stress while practicing Psychological First Aid.

Part 2: Fundamentals of Disaster Mental Health Practice (FDMHP)

FDMHP enables participants to support people experiencing the mental health impacts of disaster, and to assist in preventing more serious emotional issues such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. This training equips participants to provide the supportive recovery environment that is so crucial to the healing of those whose lives have been touched by disaster.

Prerequisites: Complete PFA in-person; Master's Degree; New York State Licensure; Mental Health and/or Disaster Mental Health background experience.

Program Objectives

- Identify key phases of disaster response and roles assumed by mental health professionals.
- Identify the range of psychological and psychosocial reactions that individuals experience in the aftermath of disasters and the range of early phase mental health interventions suitable to address these reactions.
- Learn and practice the skills of early intervention following disaster.
- Understand the key mechanisms of assignment preparation, mobilization, deployment, and transition home.

TO APPLY

Complete the [Application Form](#). **Deadline** for Applications: **October 27th, 2025.**

Any questions, please email Disaster Mental Health Team Lead, **Amy Dubose** at amy.dubose@omh.ny.gov.

To achieve the most effective outcomes for communities and individuals affected by disasters and traumatic events, the disaster mental health program is committed to delivering its services and support in a culturally responsive, humble, sensitive, and ethical manner through a diverse workforce reflecting the wide variety of cultures comprising New York State's population. The program therefore seeks team members with broad cultural, language, skill, and relational capacities, and who are equally committed to supporting people in a culturally appropriate and reflective way.