



Lessons Applied Initiatives: *An Annotated Summary*

SUMMARY OF SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

- Every Bit of Preparedness Helps: [MayDay](#)
- Know Your First Responders: [Tips for Working with Emergency Responders](#)
- Ensure Informed, Coordinated, and Expedient Response: [Recommended Professional Emergency Management Training](#)
- Money Is Essential to Recovery: [Guide to Navigating FEMA and SBA Funding](#)
- Collaboration Leads to Effective Response: [Heritage Emergency National Task Force: Evaluating Our Response to Katrina](#)

DESCRIPTIONS OF RECOMMENDED LONGER-TERM PROJECTS

Longer-term goals are projects that Task Force members can consider adopting as institutional projects. These projects require additional funding.

Preparedness-at-a-Glance poster

This project would revise a worksheet previously created for libraries to make it usable for any cultural institution. The worksheet describes seven steps for disaster planning and mitigation, and it can be printed poster-sized and laminated. It could also be posted online.

Educational exchange with the insurance industry

The goal of this exchange would be to learn what incentives insurance companies can offer for planning and mitigation and what the Task Force can do to influence insurance policy decisions.

Best practices for working with first responders

This project's goal is to identify best practices and case studies of communicating and partnering with first responders. Ideas and links to successful models would be shared with Task Force members and posted on the Alliance for Response Web page.

White paper on Alliance for Response

The white paper would address ways to expand the audience for Alliance for Response, communicate the worth of the forums to targeted communities, sustain partnerships after the forum, and work with emergency management leaders at both the national and state levels.

Cultural heritage outreach campaign

The panel has started an outreach campaign about the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and Alliance for Response through article placement and conference sessions with professional, civic, and emergency management organizations. Task force staff time is needed to coordinate further efforts.

Cultural heritage emergency speakers' bureau

Panel members envision this effort as a stand-alone, funded program. Among the issues that must be addressed are models for the bureau, speaker recruitment, contracting arrangements, potential audience, promotion of the effort, fundraising, and sustainability. Planning for this effort could take 6-12 months.

Inclusion of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force in ESF #11

Task Force representatives participated in discussions and have proposed language for inclusion in the Emergency Support Function #11 Annex of the National Response Plan addressing the role of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force as a resource for the Natural and Cultural Resources and Historic Properties (NCH) part of Emergency Support Function #11.

Guidelines for establishing mutual assistance networks

Following the model of the California Preservation Program, this project would provide guidance for establishing regional mutual assistance networks for cultural heritage organizations. Information and templates would be provided on how to establish and sustain these networks and how to develop and administer regional supply caches. A nationwide linking of mutual assistance networks could also be explored.

GIS (Geographic Information System) standards for archives, libraries, and museums

As the lead agency for this nationwide dataset, the National Park Service is developing federal cultural resource spatial data standards. The standards currently address historic properties but could include other resources represented by Task Force constituents. Archives, libraries, and museums could be mapped geographically and the information used before and after a disaster to plan the response. As a first step, the panel proposes bringing together key people to identify data requirements.

National listing of cultural responders

This project would establish a single national listing of cultural heritage responders. The National Park Service Emergency Incident Coordination Center (EICC) is available to maintain a listing of federal employees at no cost to the Task Force. A number of issues need to be addressed before a list of private sector responders is developed.

Foundation Center guide to identify funding for preservation/disasters

The Library of Congress has contracted with the Foundation Center to develop and publish a resource list of foundations that support or might support preservation and conservation projects related to emergencies. Online information should be available in the fall.

Print version of “Guide to Navigating FEMA and SBA Funding”

Print and distribute the FEMA/SBA disaster assistance navigation guide to cultural institutions in areas that are expected to be or have been affected by a major disaster. This would give institutions all the information and forms they need to apply for disaster assistance. Hard copies of the navigation guide would also be sent to state organizations and agencies so they could notify their constituents of its availability.

Case statement for a “National Heritage Stabilization Fund”

Following a serious disaster, immediate stabilization measures can be critical to saving a community’s cultural and historic resources. There are few, if any, resources currently in place. This initiative would develop a prospectus with case studies to highlight the need for a stabilization fund that provides “bridge loans” to help rescue irreplaceable cultural heritage.

“Institutional Profile” template

Create a template for a standard Institutional Profile form that can be held in a secure location in both electronic and paper formats. The form will contain data necessary to qualify for recovery funding, such as information on governance, insurance, provenance, value of collections, etc. The template could be added to the FEMA/SBA disaster assistance Web site and printed guide.

Survey of post-Katrina assistance recipients

After the completion of the survey of Task Force member responses to hurricane season 2005, the survey can be revised to gather data from institutions and agencies that received assistance from Task Force members during that time.

Online directory of disaster recovery information

Establish one central place on the Web for institutions to find disaster recovery information, post damage reports, offers of help, and a variety of resources. Not all information would be publicly accessible.

Lessons Applied is a project of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, co-sponsored by Heritage Preservation and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This initiative was made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Bay and Paul Foundations.

For more information, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/lessons.