



Disaster 211

Inclusion / Exclusion Policy

Disaster 211 provides information and referral services in times of disaster, linking residents to health and human services in our community. The following guidelines are used to determine if an organization is eligible to be listed in the Disaster 211 resource database.

The following criteria MUST be met to be in order to be considered for inclusion in the Disaster 211 resource database. (MANDATORY CRITERIA)

- Organization provides a health or human service for residents of a participating county.
- Organization must demonstrate provision of service for at least 6 months.
- All organizations included in the Disaster 211 resource database must agree to update their service information, at minimum, once each year.

Organizations meeting the following criteria may be eligible for inclusion, provided they meet all mandatory criteria above and do not meet exclusion factors below.

- Government (local, state, federal) agencies that provide social, consumer, criminal justice, education, legal, environmental or other services to residents of a participating county.
- Non-profit organizations that provide social, educational, legal, community, consumer, health or human services to residents of a participating county.
- Local elected representatives.
- Churches, social clubs, service organizations, and civic groups that offer a service to the community at large.

Organizations meeting the following criteria may be considered for inclusion provided they meet all mandatory criteria above and do not violate any exclusion factors.

- For-profit organizations providing health or human services not adequately available from the non-profit sector and are considered on an individual basis.
- Support groups that are not part of a larger agency that do not charge a fee for service and can demonstrate provision of service for at least 6 months.
- National organizations and out-of-county entities, including statewide and national toll-free phone services, that offer needed health and human services and which address a gap in local services or in the case where the out of county service is more accessible to residents than the equivalent services offered within a participating county.
- Professional Associations providing a public service (e.g. information and referral).

Organizations meeting the following criteria will not be included in the Disaster 211 resource database.

- Any organization which promotes or delivers illegal services.
- Agencies that misrepresent themselves, fail to respond to updating contacts or deny service based on prejudice or discrimination.
- Services which are available only to members of a certain group or affiliation. For example, counseling available to a church's parishioners only.

- Organizations that offer free or low-cost services only to market the organization's main business when the organization's main business/services are not appropriate for 211 inclusion.
- Private practitioners or group practices of mental health providers, medical doctors, dentists, legal/paralegal providers, etc.
- Organizations that do not maintain a consistently available contact person may not be included in the database or may be removed from the database. Access through an answering machine is acceptable.
- Providers serving the childcare needs of the county as Disaster 211 has an agreement with specific agencies to handle all referrals for childcare requests.
- Volunteer recruitment and coordination organizations will not be considered as Disaster 211 has an agreement with specific agencies to handle all volunteer related referrals.

Guidelines for Review and/or Appeals

Should special circumstances exist which are not effectively covered by the preceding guidelines, or if there is disagreement about inclusion or exclusion, the agency or organization in question may contact Disaster 211 and request a review of the inclusion/exclusion decision.

Disclaimer

Eligibility for inclusion does not guarantee inclusion. Inclusion in the Disaster 211 database does not imply endorsement and omission does not indicate disapproval.

Disaster 211 may exclude or remove organizations from the Disaster 211 resource database at any time at the discretion of the Disaster 211 Resource Department. Exceptions to this policy may be made at the discretion of the Disaster 211 Resource Department.

This policy does not prohibit the inclusion of any program that targets services based on age, gender, health, disability or other characteristic designed to meet special needs of targeted populations. However, the program must be open to all people in those targeted populations.

Information provided by organizations and individual service providers and included in the Disaster 211 database will be made available to the general public in various formats, including telephone information and referral, an online searchable database of services and printed materials. Disaster 211 reserves the right to edit information to meet format, guideline and space requirements. Information listed in the resource database represents what is provided to Disaster 211 by service providers and, as such, Disaster 211 neither guarantees nor makes any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in its resource inventory. Disaster 211 disclaims any and all responsibility and liability that may be asserted or claimed resulting from or arising out of reliance upon the information and procedures presented in the resource inventory.