

Job Description: Partners in Response and Resilience

Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program strives to increase the Episcopal Church's engagement in disaster preparedness activities and to improve the quality and effectiveness of disaster recovery programs. This methodology prioritizes expanding existing congregational and diocesan ministries as well as identifying other gifts to meet the needs of people who may fall through the cracks of traditional recovery systems, including individuals who are poor, undocumented, homeless, elderly, formerly incarcerated, live in rural areas, and others.

Episcopal Relief & Development is expanding our Partners in Response and Resilience team, a group of people with diverse backgrounds and expertise who accompany dioceses as they work to improve their disaster preparedness and response capacity. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply. Those selected will be invited to attend a gathering in late spring with Episcopal Relief & Development staff and current Partners in Response and Resilience.

In the event of a major disaster, Partners may be asked to assist with recovery work to assist newly affected church leaders to discern their vision for disaster response and how to implement that vision. All Partners will be asked to provide written feedback to Episcopal Relief & Development about their projects including feedback on what documents or tools were used, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for future work. After a two-year term, there will be a mutual evaluation process between the Partner and the Episcopal Relief & Development staff to determine if the person will continue in this ministry.

This is an unpaid, volunteer position; however, when you travel for this ministry, Episcopal Relief & Development will cover your expenses.

Requirements and competencies:

1. Applicants must have:
 - a. A strong sense of God's call for the Church to be present in the world to the most vulnerable people
 - b. The ability to empower and coach others in high-stress settings
 - c. Experience with a disaster in their own church context
 - d. Bishop's approval to participate in this ministry
 - e. Practical experience in program and ministry planning
 - f. An understanding of the principles of asset-based community development
 - g. Strong subject matter knowledge in at least one of the Partner's project areas: ministry with vulnerable populations, curriculum development for adult learners, training and facilitation, care for caregivers, program design, disaster risk reduction, the sequence of delivery for disaster assistance and formal recovery systems

- h. A working knowledge of video conferencing, Google suite. and other technology platforms as needed
 - i. Able to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
2. Must be:
 - a. Emotionally and spiritually grounded; self reflective and aware of their personal baggage
 - b. Able to guide discernment processes so that sustainable, appropriate ministries are developed
 - c. Eager to work in partnership with others
 - d. Understand that their role is not to be a fixer or rescuer
 - e. Able to listen deeply in order to direct, focus and accurately reflect conversations.
 - f. Able to communicate availability and scheduling limitations with Episcopal Relief & Development staff
 - g. Willing to ask for help when needed

Requirements for Continuing Education:

1. Attend yearly Partners in Response and Resilience team training conferences.
2. Participate in Episcopal Relief & Development disaster preparedness webinars and/or in-person trainings.

Possible Projects for Partners:

- Coach impacted dioceses as they respond to disasters
- Deploy to an impacted diocese after a disaster to offer in-person support
- Support diocesan staff to encourage better self-care and care for caregivers after disasters
- Co-facilitate local and regional disaster preparedness trainings
- Assist with preparedness and capacity building webinars
- Develop preparedness and response materials in collaboration with Episcopal Relief & Development staff.
- Research best practices in disaster preparedness and/or response