

NEBRASKA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Disaster Declarations, Volunteers, and Long-Term Recovery

November 18, 2021

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Strength.





Emergency Management

Emergency management is the framework within which communities reduce vulnerabilities to hazards and cope with disasters.

Preparedness: Assist individuals and communities in being as ready for disasters as possible.

Response: Support and coordinate local agency emergency activities, operations.

Recovery: Restore public services, help communities return to a new normal.

Mitigation: Assist communities in lessening the impact of disasters before they happen.



State E.M.A.s: Role & Function

NEMA's Mission: To coordinate, support, and serve Nebraska through an effective and relevant emergency management agency.

NEMA's Vision: Safer, less vulnerable communities in Nebraska made possible through effective, collaborative partnerships committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency is charged by state statute to reduce the vulnerabilities of the people and communities of Nebraska from the damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural, technological or man-made disasters and emergencies.

Ensuring our locals have all that they need, to do what they must.



Disaster Response & Declarations

All disasters – of all kinds, in all places – begin and end in local communities.

NEMA envisions safer, less vulnerable communities across Nebraska, achieved through effective, collaborative partnerships – comprehensive, progressive, risk-driven, cost-effective, and flexible partnerships – committed to saving lives and reducing the impact of disasters.

Disaster Declarations – “The Thresholds of Capacity”

Local (City/County) → State → Federal (Major/Presidential)

Each level opens the door for additional assets, funding sources, resources.

Every community is equipped to respond to, and handle, disasters differently.



Disaster Declarations

Every declaration is piecemeal – from community to individual, each with various possible programs and forms of assistance.

- Public Assistance
- Individual Assistance
- Hazard Mitigation

Nothing is guaranteed.

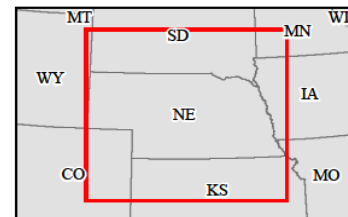
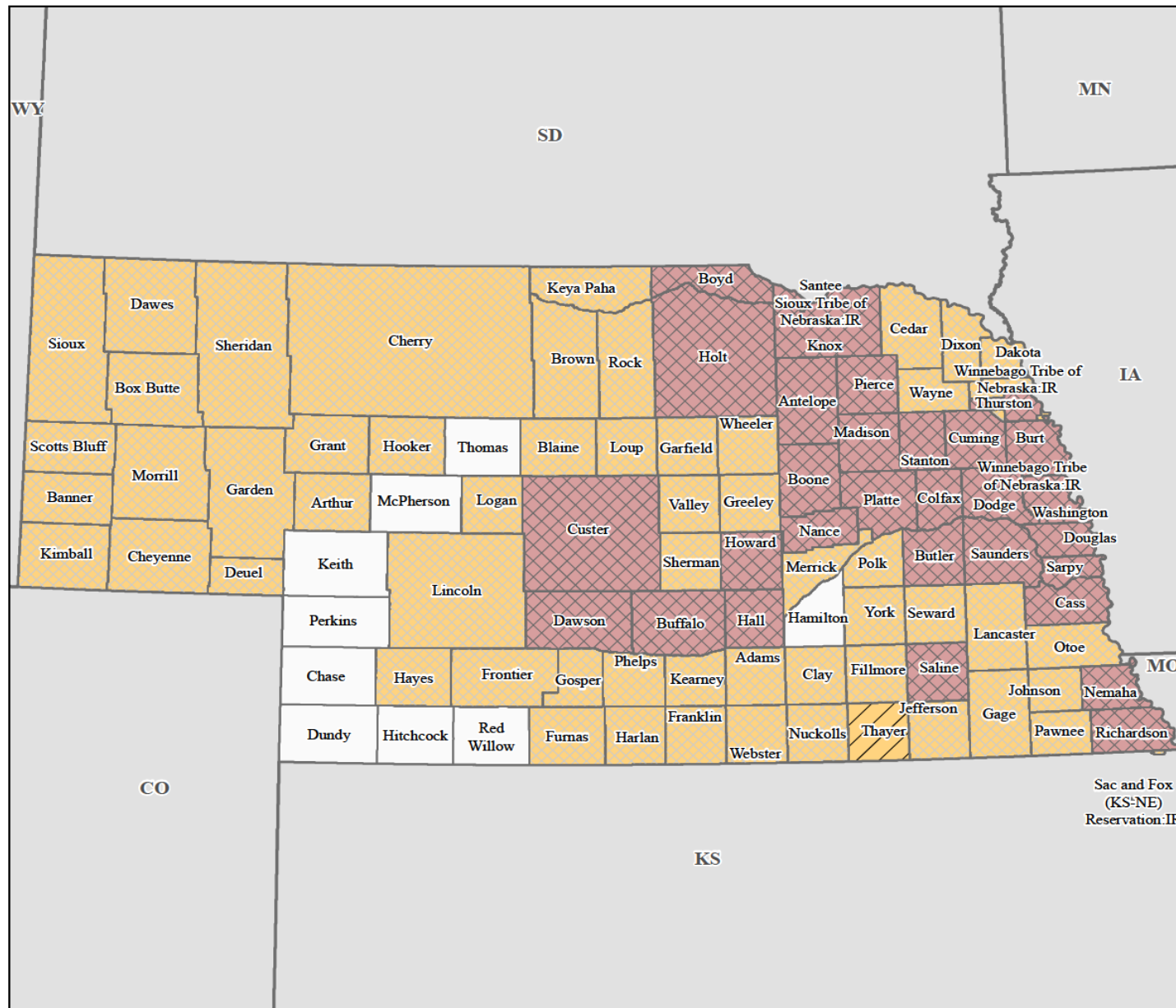
Contingencies and Degrees of Variance

- Pilger tornado [No Individual Assistance.]
- COVID-19: P.A. “Emergency Protective Measures”

Why planning and training are so critical.



FEMA-4420-DR, Nebraska Disaster Declaration as of 10/10/2019

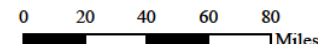


Data Layer/Map Description:
The types of assistance that have been designated for selected areas in the State of Nebraska.

All counties and Indian Tribes in the State of Nebraska are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Designated Counties

- No Designation
- Public Assistance (Categories A and B)
- Individual Assistance and Public Assistance (Categories A - G)
- Public Assistance (Categories A - G)



Data Sources:
 FEMA, ESRI;
 Initial Declaration: 03/21/2019
 Disaster Federal Registry Notice:
 Amendment #12: 10/10/2019
 Datum: North American 1983
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic

Damage Assessments

“Windshield surveys” of the impacted area, ideally a collaborative effort.

- Survey of residences, buildings, businesses, schools, roads, bridges.
- Analysis of structural damages, inventory/property loss, etc.

Local guidance and expertise is crucial.

Verified loss: If it can't be proven, if FEMA can't see it, then it didn't happen.

- Pictures, pictures, pictures.

Information necessary for requesting an official, federal Preliminary Damage Assessment from FEMA.

Categorization of 4 types: Affected, Minor Damage, Major Damage, Destroyed

FEMA Public Assistance

Federal reimbursement program for units of government (State, Local, Tribal, Territorial), certain private nonprofits, and eligible public entities (power districts, etc.), to return damaged infrastructure, facilities, structures to “pre-disaster conditions” – usually comes with a 75 / 25 split.

Categories:

- A—Debris removal
- B—Emergency protective measures
- C—Roads and bridges
- D—Water control facilities
- E—Public buildings and contents
- F—Public utilities
- G—Parks, recreational, other facilities

In Nebraska, municipalities have a specific dollar amount in estimated damages that must be hit before the State submits a declaration request.

FEMA Individual Assistance

A multitude of various direct assistance programs for individuals and families impacted by a disaster event – designed to address the most immediate, short-term needs.

Average settlement amount: \$3,000

Maximum settlement amount: \$34,900

Can also include (or be connected to) a disaster declaration from the Small Business Administration (SBA), to provide low-interest loans.

Deciding factors: the number of residences classified as Major Damage or Destroyed; the number of uninsured (or underinsured) homes impacted; the number of fatalities; the “economic severity” of the disaster; national media coverage.

FEMA I.A. Programs & Assistance

Temporary Housing / Rental Assistance

Housing Repairs / Personal Property Loss

Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

- Medical/Dental Expenses
- Funeral Expenses
- Vehicle Repairs / Replacement
- Child Care Expenses

Disaster Crisis Counseling

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Legal Services & Tax Considerations

Disaster Case Management

FEMA Hazard Mitigation

Based on natural disaster vulnerabilities and risks common in a certain area, positioned to break a cycle of disasters that regularly impact a community.

Intentional emphasis on future conditions and nature-based solutions.

Acts of disaster preparedness meant to decrease repetitive losses, financial hardships, and losses of life.

Able to build new and better, not simply a return to pre-disaster conditions, usually in the form of a 75 / 25 financial split. Works closely National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), other insurance programs.

Most common projects: acquisition and demolitions, elevations.

Undeclared Disasters

State disaster declarations can happen quickly, but Federal disaster declarations tend to take a little time.

Declaration or not, the priorities remain the same – identify needs, help people.

Declarations provide additional resources, assets, and funding sources, but it is sometimes best to think of these as reinforcements.

Other resources, assets, funding sources are not determined by or beholden to disaster declarations – volunteer groups, community members, nonprofits.

Disaster events – declaration or not – still unfold the same way, rescue, response, and recovery.



RESCUE

Address safety, security issues.

3 Days

RESPONSE

Address short-term needs

-- food, water, clothing,
medicine, shelter.

30 Days

RECOVERY

Address long-term needs – sustainable
housing, financial security, permanent
food/water solutions, replacement of lost
property.

300 Days

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2019 Flood

Major Declaration in Place:
March 9, 2019 – July 14, 2019
[127 Days]

Estimated Recovery—1,270
Days [3 years, 6 months]

Appeal for Extension through
September 18, 2019
[193 Days]

Estimated Recovery—1,930
Days [5 years, 4 months]

Volunteer Groups & VOAD

VOAD – Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster – a collection and network of nonprofit partners, volunteer organizations, and other stakeholders.

National VOAD has more than 70 active member organizations, and each state has its own VOAD network.

Promotes cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration, and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

Twelve different subcommittees: Advocacy, Communications, Community Preparedness, Disaster Case Management, Disaster Health, Donations Management, Emotional & Spiritual Care, Housing Committee, International, Long-Term Recovery, Mass Care, Volunteer Management.

Volunteer & Donations Management

Unsolicited donations and volunteers during, after disasters.

The importance of outreach and communicating response and recovery efforts, as well as community-level and general needs.

Flexibility and a mindset of “Yes”

Easiest ways for people to support, financial donations through local, trusted organizations and groups currently on the ground.

Ways for people and potential volunteers to register their availability, services.

Warehousing, operational efficiencies, and municipal partnerships, engagement



Long-Term Recovery

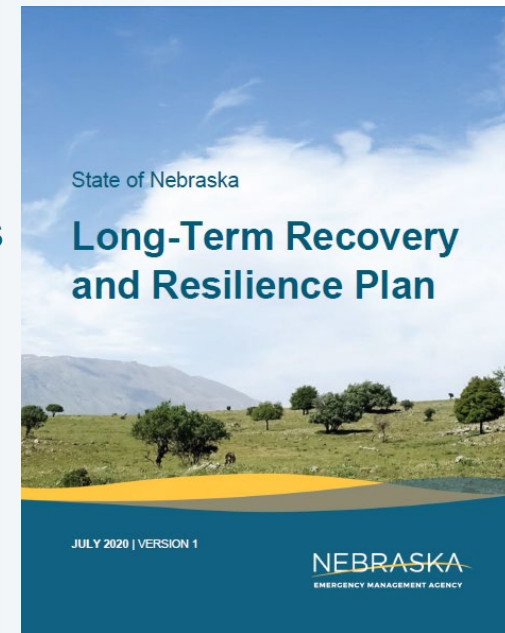
Common themes, regardless of geographic location and disaster type.

Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs)

Governor's Task Force for Disaster Recovery

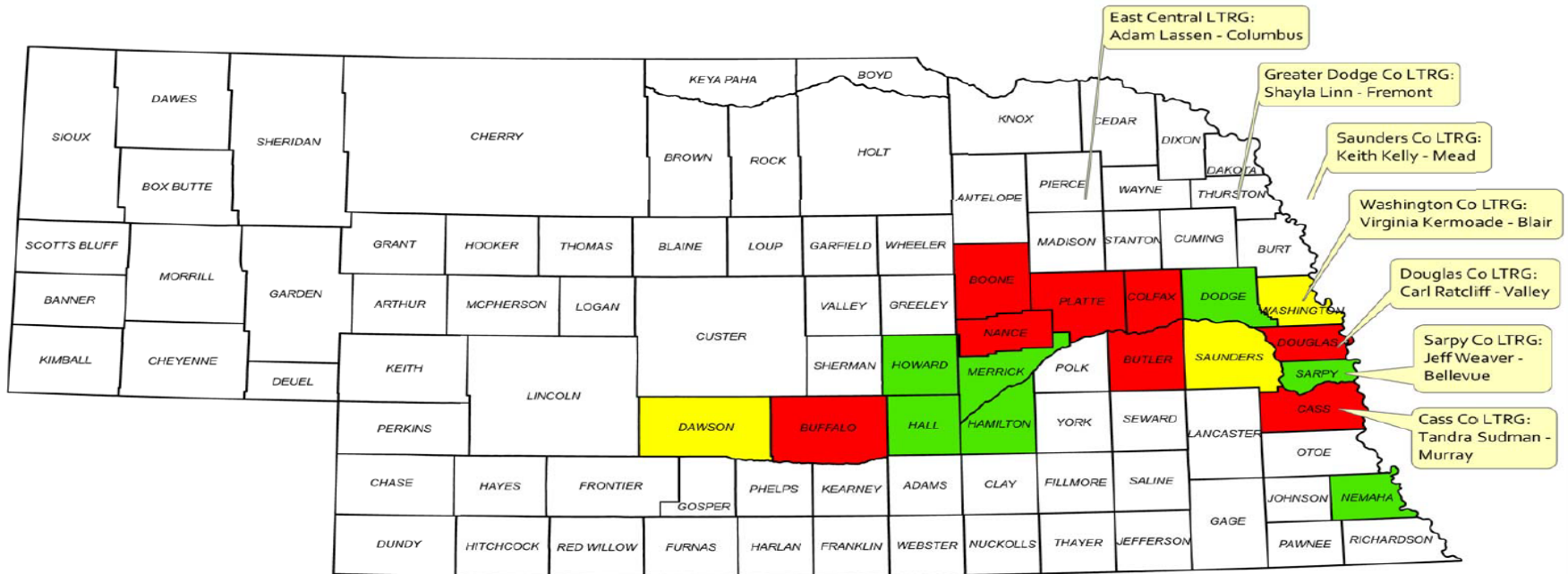
- Recovery Support Function (RSF) Subcommittees
- Local Impact Group
- Long-Term Recovery & Resilience Plan
- Economic ecosystem analysis
- Communication channels, needs identification

Goals: Ongoing needs identification, case management, Transition to preparedness and COADs.



LOCAL IMPACT GROUPS

ACTIVE LTRG'S

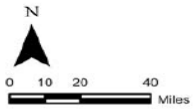


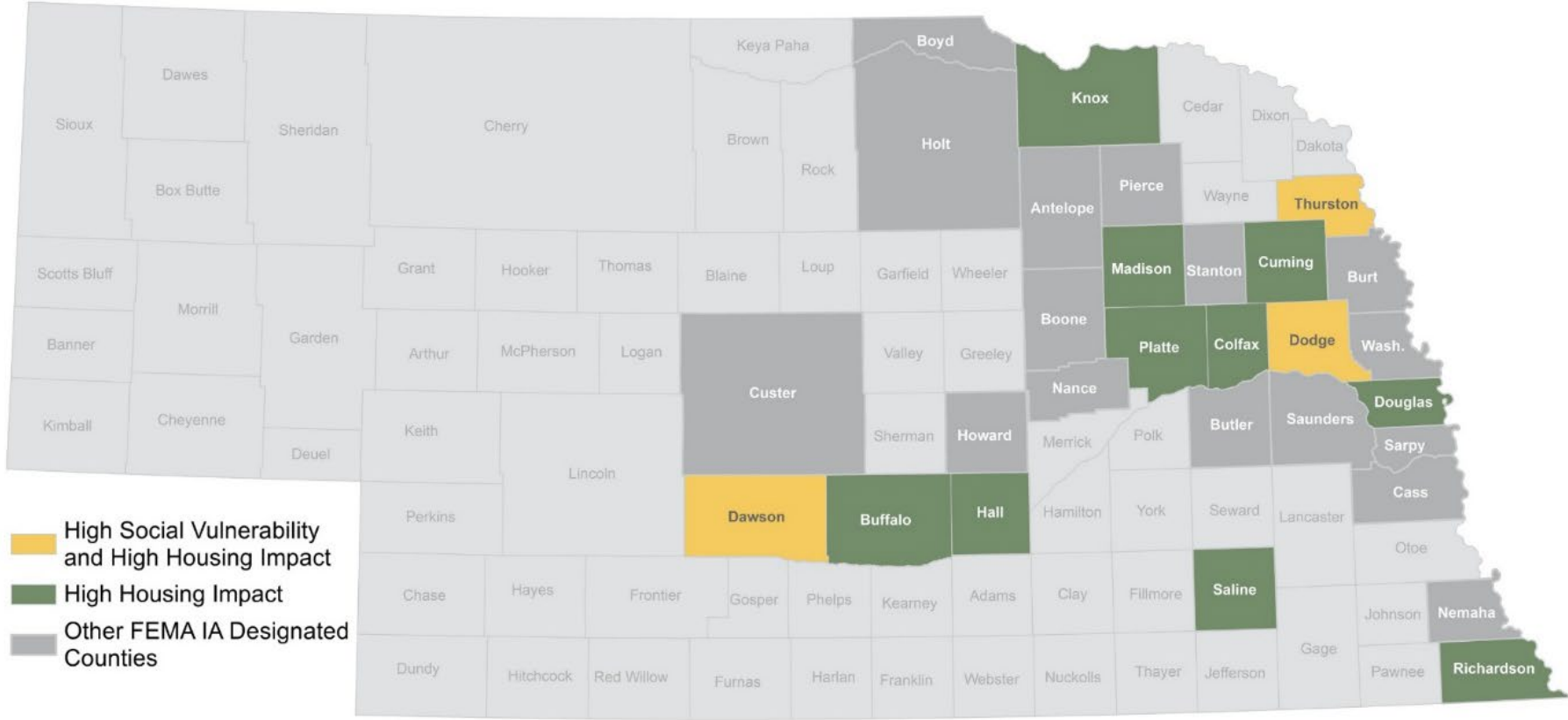
Dawson Area Recovery Group:
Tammi Jeffs - Lexington

Kearney Area DRG:
Judi Sickler - Kearney

Heartland DRG:
Sara Arnett - Grand Island

Northeast Nemaha County LTRG:
Dan Hanson - Peru





- High Social Vulnerability and High Housing Impact
- High Housing Impact
- Other FEMA IA Designated Counties

“Invisible” Housing Need

Official figures for housing loss may have underestimated the true impact of the disasters due to:

- Lack of participation in federal disaster programs,
- Families inhabiting damaged dwellings,
- Discrepancies in federal data collection processes.

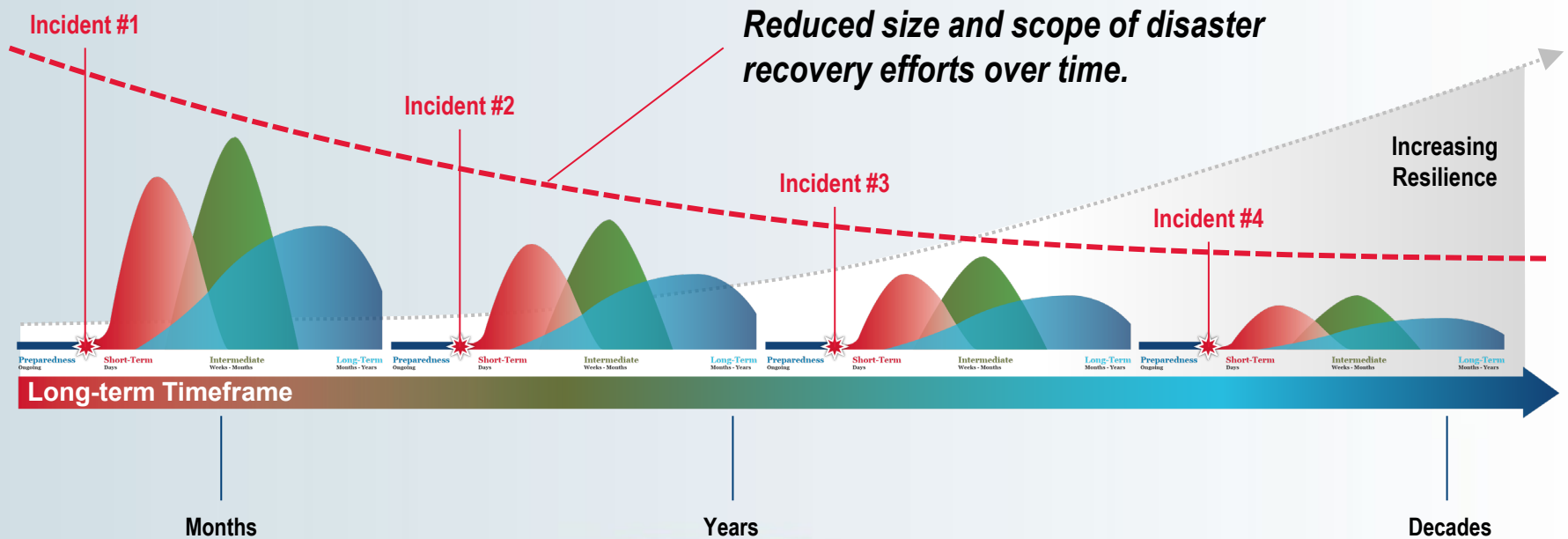
Additional needs may later be identified due to:

- Lack of access to affordable housing,
- Delayed risk of homelessness due to financial constraints,
- Temporary arrangements at the time aid is distributed.

Immediate housing/recovery needs: predatory landlord practices; insurance/mortgage broker issues; weather-related issues; mold remediation, abatement; mental/behavioral health issues; lack of subcontractors; identifying needs in rural areas; case management capacity, bandwidth; time-sensitive funding.

Preparedness, Mitigation, Resilience

Every dollar spent on mitigation saves more than six dollars in recovery.



Whole Community Engagement

