

Health and Social Services

Potential Issues

- Health Facility Restoration
- Social Service Provision to Socioeconomic Vulnerable Populations
- Public Safety Service Levels Re-established Throughout the Community
- Coordination and Assistance for Non-Governmental Organizations and Volunteers
- Provide for Special Needs Populations Throughout Long-Term Redevelopment
- Public Transportation Restoration and Improvement
- Schools, Higher Education Reopened
- Mental and Behavioral Health Assistance
- Medical Personnel Retention and Recruitment
- Health-Related Pollution and Environmental Justice
- Quality of Life Factors

Questions to Consider

- How can temporary medical resources, labor, or funding be integrated into the existing local healthcare structure?
- Are there procedures in place for vulnerable populations (including special needs, elderly, non-native English speakers, people with pets, etc.)?
- Are there adequate shelter space and service programs for vulnerable populations?
- Are public safety facilities located in areas that may make them vulnerable to severe damage during a disaster event?
- Are measures in place to ensure medical transportation vehicles (ambulances, helicopters) are moved from the impact zone prior to the storm?
- Have partnerships with regional or out-of-state care facilities been developed?
- Have threats to hospital and anticipated damage been identified?
- Is medical staff trained to deal with mold and asbestos related illness?

- How can Community Emergency Response Teams, Unmet Needs Committees, and Long-Term Recovery Organizations be bolstered pre-disaster so that they can provide optimal services when a disaster occurs?
- What kind of special accommodations and temporary housing will nursing home and assisted-living facility residents require during evacuation and recovery?
- How can post-disaster changes in the locations of housing and employment centers affect public transit?
- What measures are necessary to ensure schools reopen quickly after a disaster?
- Do mental health providers have adequate resources to deal with an influx of patients post disaster?
- How can recruitment programs target sufficient and qualified medical personnel to fill a range of positions and ensure health care facilities remain open after a disaster?
- Has special consideration been given to planning for timely cleanup and remediation, especially among the economically disadvantaged, to prevent unhealthy conditions?
- What steps can be taken to restore quality of life after a disaster and also incorporate healthy community principles into redevelopment?