

# Vulnerable Populations Project

Helping Families Prepare for a Disaster

Thurston County Public Health &  
Social Services Department



# Project Background

- Goal
  - Improve the disaster preparedness of people in our community who are least likely to be prepared
- Focus
  - Though several vulnerable populations exist, this Project will focus on families with young children under 10 years old
- Approach
  - Disaster preparedness education and a disaster kit will be provided to families by agencies staff during a routine encounter
- Outcome
  - The final product will be a program model and online tool-kit that other communities will be able to modify and implement
- Timeline
  - This is a one-time, short-term demonstration project that will end in June 2009

# Your Participation

- Receive training on preparedness education for your clients
- Receive a Disaster Kit for your home
- Educate clients on preparing for a disaster
- Distribute Disaster Kits to your clients
- Project duration can be adjusted to fit the needs of your program

# Why this approach?

- Community-Based Agencies have:
  - Routine contact with target population
  - Staff with established relationships and client trust
  
- Demonstration Project:
  - This is an opportunity to participate in a new approach to disaster preparedness

# “Vulnerable” Populations?

- Compared to other groups, families with young children are least likely to be prepared
  
- For example, among adults who have at least one child:
  - 1 in 2 do not have a 3-day supply of water
  - Only 14% feel “very prepared” for a disaster

Source: Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department

# Needs Specific to Families

- Some important needs that may be unique to young children are:
  - Medical Supplies
  - Food
  - Diapers/Hygiene

# The Project Disaster Kit

- Health Department staff and participating program staff will coordinate the provision of client disaster kits
- Project kits are limited and may not be available for all agency clients
- Projects kits are only available for the duration of the project

# Contents of Disaster Kit

**Basic items a family might need to stay safe without electricity, running water, or transportation**

- 3-Day Supply of Food and Water
- Emergency Blankets
- Hand-crank radio and flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Wet wipes/towelettes
- Extra duffle bag for children's items
- NO matches, knives, or sharp tools

# Educating Your Clients

## ➤ Summary

- “Education” = one 5-minute conversation during an existing client encounter when the clients receives the Disaster Kit

## ➤ Goal

- Raise awareness on preparing for a disaster, especially for children

## ➤ Focus

- Discuss the handout and kit

Review Client Education Handout

# Client Education Example

- Raise awareness
- Brief – 5 minutes or less
- General – focus on handout
- Give the Disaster Kit to clients

Volunteer?

# Implementation

- How will the 5-minute client education and kit distribution be incorporated into your client flow?
- How will staff document which clients have received the education and kit, for both reporting purposes and to avoid duplication?

# Next Steps

- Health Department Trainer and Agency Staff will proceed with agreed upon action plan:
  - Client Disaster Kits will be delivered
  - Agency staff will discuss client education
  - Client education and kit distribution will be documented
  - Agency staff will be asked to provide feedback on this Project
  - Tool-kit will be shared locally and nationally

# Evaluation

Please take a moment to complete an evaluation form to help improve the Vulnerable Populations Project

# Questions:

- For more information related to Family Disaster Preparedness, please go to:

[www.co.thurston.wa.us/health](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health)

- For questions regarding implementation, please see your supervisor