# **DISASTER READY**

# **Know What to Do, When it Matters Most**

Use this timeline to understand what actions to take at each stage of a disaster — from preparing ahead of time to staying safe during an emergency and starting recovery afterward.

### 1. PREPAREDNESS

**DURATION: ONGOING** 

- Identify the top hazards in your community using FEMA's National Risk Index
- **Sign-up** for early warning notifications to stay informed about your local risks
- Build Partnerships with local agencies, nonprofits, and neighboring jurisdictions
- Create or Update your community's emergency plan with clear roles, resources and contacts

# 2. DISASTER STRIKES

- □ Activate your organization's emergency protocol immediately
- Alert residents and partners using preestablished communication channels
- ☐ Ensure vulnerable residents (elderly, disabled, medically dependent) have immediate support
- Maintain direct coordination with local emergency management and first responders

## 3. RESPONSE

**DURATION:** DAYS | WEEKS

- Provide situational updates to residents, staff and stakeholders
- Manage resource distribution (shelter, food, water, medical supplies) efficiently
- ☐ Track needs, damages, and operational challenges in real time
- Document expenditures and in-kind contributions for reimbursement opportunities

#### 4. RECOVERY

**DURATION: WEEKS | MONTHS | YEARS** 

- Assess and document damage of property, taking photos for insurance and funding applications
- ☐ Connect residents to recovery resources and assistance programs
- Apply for funding to cover repair costs
- Repair and restore critical infrastructure and housing
- Address long-term community needs
- ☐ **Update** emergency plans with lessons learned from the disaster

