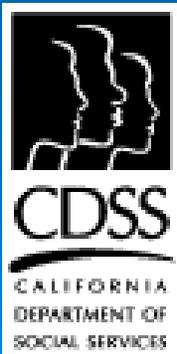


# Emergency Sheltering for People with Disabilities and Elderly



**CA Department of Social  
Services (CDSS)**

Emergency Sheltering for People with Disabilities and Elderly, started in 2006, involves these following departments and organizations:



**American Red Cross**



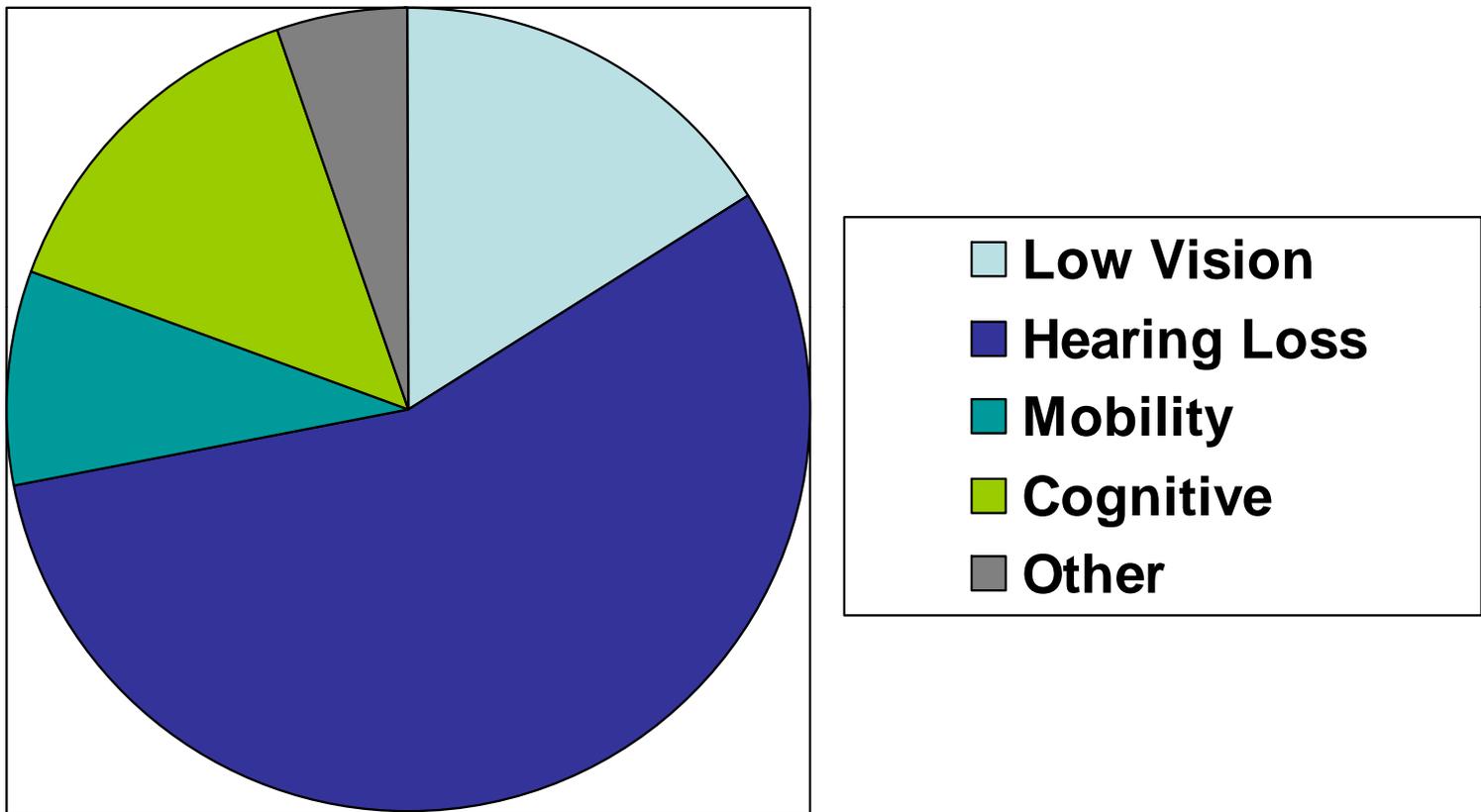
- ● ● | Shelter planning for People with Disabilities had been insufficient even before Katrina but that event brought it to the forefront.

According to CBS News, following Katrina, of those who stayed behind:

- 38% did not evacuate because they had a disability or were caring for individuals with a disability.



# 50 Million Americans with Disabilities in US - About One in Five



**Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau; all categories not mutually exclusive; persons may also have more than one disability.**



# Accessibility Planning

**If emergency planning does not embrace the value that everyone be included and served, they will not.**



# Katrina was a wake up call!

- People with all types of disabilities will show up at shelters during disasters.
- It is government's responsibility to be prepared to shelter them.
- Local government is the first level of response for disasters.
- CDSS has lead responsibility for sheltering at the state level.



# Key concepts about sheltering of people with disabilities and elderly

- People with disabilities (PWD) can be accommodated in general population shelters if given the proper support.
- Meeting the needs of PWD requires proper planning done pre-event and coordination done during an event.
- Support for sheltering PWD needs to come from government, Non – Government Organizations and private sources.



# Shelter planning for people with disabilities

- State agencies, led by CDSS, have been planning to meet emergency shelter needs of people with disabilities since 2006
- Ten counties have been involved in similar efforts since 2007. The counties are:
  - San Francisco
  - Alameda
  - Santa Cruz
  - Sonoma
  - San Joaquin
  - Yolo
  - Sacramento
  - San Diego
  - Los Angeles
  - Ventura



# ● ● ● | FAST concept

- After 2 years of planning, concept of a team that will support people in shelters was developed:  
**F**unctional  
**A**ssessment and  
**S**ervice  
**T**eam



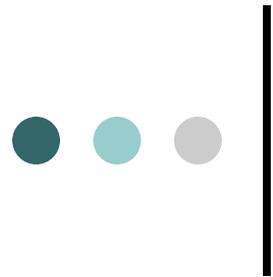
# FAST concept

Common problem - disability is often viewed through medical eyes.

FAST will help assess people with disabilities & assist them by getting what they need to stay in a shelter.

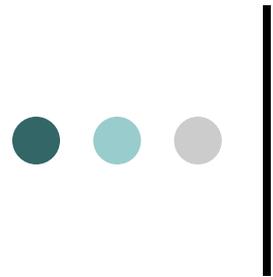
FAST will help distinguish people who have functional needs from those who have medical needs.





# FAST Description and Duties

- Trained government employees & CBO/NGO/FBO personnel
- Deployed as shelters open & work until no longer needed
- Cover several shelters & may also work in Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs)
- In depth knowledge of populations they serve, their cultures, & service networks.



# FAST qualifications

- **2 years experience working with populations**
- **Completion of FAST training & registration**
- **Available for quick deployment**
- **Travel as required**
- **Work under difficult & stressful situations**

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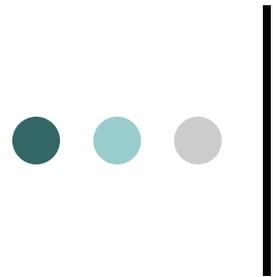
# ● ● ● | FAST Duties

**Conduct a functional needs assessment at shelters & arrange for support by requesting resources such as:**

- **Durable medical equipment (DME),**
- **Consumable medical supplies (CMS), &**
- **Essential medications**
- **Communication access**
- **Personal Assistants (PAs)**







# FAST Experience

**Members have combined experience  
in:**

- Mental Health Disabilities
- Developmental and Other Cognitive Disabilities
- Visual and Hearing Disabilities
- Aging (services/support)
- Substance Abuse Issues
- Health Conditions (nursing support services)
- Physical Disabilities

# Future Actions for FAST Implementation

- Pre-identification of FAST members
- Selection and Training for FAST –completion expected by June, 2009
- Costs recovery for Private Non Profits organizations who supply FAST members



# FAST Information Contacts

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