

WHOLE COMMUNITY

Shared Responsibility

Recognizing that preparedness is a shared responsibility, it calls for the involvement everyone—not just the government—in preparedness efforts. By working together, everyone can keep the nation safe from harm and resilient when struck by hazards, such as natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and pandemics.

Whole Community includes:

Individuals and families, including those with access and functional needs

Businesses

Faith-based and community organizations

Nonprofit groups

Schools and academia

Media outlets

All levels of government, including state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners

The phrase “whole community” appears a lot in preparedness materials, as it is one of the guiding principles. It means two things:

Involving people in the development of the national preparedness documents.

Ensuring their roles and responsibilities are reflected in the content of the materials.