

The role of the FAST is to conduct functional assessments of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs within shelters. The FAST then facilitates the process of getting essential resources needed for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.

A FAST consists of a group of trained state, county and CBO personnel who are ready to respond and deploy to disaster areas to work in shelters.



For more information, please visit:

FAST Website:
<http://www.cdss.ca.gov/dis/PG1909.htm>



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE TEAM FAST





FAST

The purpose of the FAST program is to provide staff that will be responsible for conducting functional assessments of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs within shelters. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it became clear that the same potential for a catastrophic disaster existed in California and that preparation was required. Preparation and planning, in particular for sheltering individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs, needed to be improved. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has lead responsibility within the State of California for supporting local government in mass care during a disaster. In May 2006, CDSS initiated a planning effort that included local, state and federal government, as well as various community based organizations (CBO), to better support individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs in shelters. The result of this planning effort was the FAST program. The FAST will deploy upon request and remain in shelters until it is determined that FAST is no longer needed.



FAST Qualifications:

1. Demonstrated two years experience working with and assessing the needs of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
2. Demonstrated knowledge of the disability and access and functional needs community. Knowledge of resources, support services, benefit programs and disaster aid programs is necessary.
3. Demonstrated interpersonal skills needed to communicate effectively (oral/written) and to interact effectively and diplomatically with a variety of staff, volunteers and members of the community.
4. Completion of FAST training.
5. Ability to travel as required and work under difficult and stressful situations.
6. Available for quick deployment to provide immediate and intermediate early responder assistance.



FAST Responsibilities:

1. Conduct assessments and evaluations of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
2. Identify and track necessary resources so individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs can maintain their health, safety and independence while residing in shelters.
3. Assess the need for Personal Assistance Services, durable medical equipment, consumable medical supplies and prescribed medications.
4. Develop and implement service plans for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs to meet essential functional needs of those identified.
5. Advise individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs on recovery services available. Coordinate services and maintain contacts and service notes.
6. Facilitate and provide technical assistance to shelter staff related to resources for individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
7. Ongoing coordination and collaboration with shelter management.