



North Carolina Functional Assessment Support Teams (FAST) Overview During disaster responses across the nation, individuals with access and functional needs have come to general population shelters seeking assistance. In the past these individuals have been sent to state medical support shelters or segregated in “special needs” shelters. The Stafford Act and Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) mandate integration and equal opportunity for people with disabilities in general population shelters. Additionally, most individuals with access and functional needs can be accommodated in general population shelters with appropriate support. North Carolina Emergency Management has developed a Functional Assessment Support Team (FAST) program to assist the local government agencies and their partners in providing appropriate support to individuals with access and functional needs during disasters.

- When requested by county emergency management coordinators, teams will deploy to affected communities or service sites to work with government and partner agencies ensuring all access and functional needs are met.
- FAST support will be provided at places including, but not limited to: evacuation shelters, general population shelters, disaster recovery centers, family assistance centers, and reunification centers.
- These will be trained governmental and non-profit agency professionals who have experience working with people with access and functional needs (licensure not required) in one or more of the following areas: Aging, chronic health conditions, developmental or other cognitive disabilities, hearing or vision loss, behavioral health, physical concerns, and any other needs people might have in communications, transportation, maintaining independence or personal safety.
- FAST members will conduct functional assessments of individuals to determine what type of support is needed to maintain their individual independence and safety in the temporary emergency shelter setting. FAST members are NOT personal care assistants.
- Supports FAST may request include: Consumable Medical Equipment, Durable Medical Equipment and Translation services (ASL, spoken languages)

**For additional information please email the NCEM Human Services Branch**

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