

Volunteers and Donations/Illinois Citizen Corps Committee

Purpose Statement

The mission of the Volunteers and Donations Committee is to study the issues of volunteerism and donations management during a weapons of mass destruction incident or other emergencies and disasters. The committee was formed to enable communities to educate, prepare, mobilize and manage volunteers and donations. The committee also is charged with the coordination of the Citizen Corps program, a federal homeland security volunteerism initiative. In that role, the committee is known as the Illinois Citizen Corps Council.



2008 Key Activities

- The “volunteers” desk in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was quite active in 2008. The desk is managed by IEMA staff and serves two purposes: one is for IEMA to have a better handle on what local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) are doing during disasters, and the other is for IEMA to potentially provide missions to local VOADs on behalf of the state. The desk was active not only during the June 2008 floods, but also during the I-Quake exercise in October 2008. With each experience, IEMA has learned along with the VOADs how to better improve the system for volunteer management in the state through such concepts as messaging on the Ready Illinois website about donations and volunteering during times of disaster.



- The Illinois Citizen Corps Program unveiled a new website at www.ready.illinois.gov/citizencorps that houses Illinois specific information for all Citizen Corps and increases our public education and outreach components.
- The committee hosted the 2008 Annual Illinois Citizen Corps Conference in February. Around 200 individuals attended the conference, which included various breakout sessions and speakers.
- The committee developed a subcommittee in September 2007

comprised of around 10 local Citizen Corps Councils to study a number of issues for recommendation to the full Illinois Citizen Corps Council. Those issues include



standardization of the Illinois Citizen Corps Program as far as requirements to start a council and then maintain it in good standing and also development of new standards for the dissemination of 2008 grant funding. Those findings were presented at the annual conference in February 2008, implemented beginning in July 2008, and tweaked throughout the year.

2009 Initiatives

- Establish the Aidmatrix donations and volunteer management system in Illinois. Many other states already have this system as supported by FEMA, and Illinois wishes to do the same.
- Continue to enhance the excellent relationship established with the Illinois VOAD for other collaborative opportunities.
- Work to further streamline all volunteer-related efforts in the state, such as the Volunteer Management Support Teams, Centers for Spontaneous Volunteers, and other volunteer-related educational efforts.



- The committee will host the 2009 Annual Illinois Citizen Corps Conference on May 19-20, 2009.
- Continue to administer the Illinois Citizen Corps Program and all associated grants.

