

CHAPTER 3

ASSESSMENT STANDARDS & AUTHORIZED SERVICE

IHSS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENT PLAN

General Information

In CMIPS II, a four letter code identifies IHSS recipients who will require contact by emergency personnel in the aftermath of a disaster. The Caseload Disaster Preparedness (DP) Assessment Plan provides a safety check for IHSS recipients who might be unable to care for themselves, or even call for help, in the aftermath of a disaster.

Purpose

The primary purpose of Disaster Preparedness (DP) coding is to:

- Provide responding Emergency Personnel with the special conditions or needs of recipients
- Provide an assessment tool that will identify recipients requiring contact in the aftermath of a disaster
- Provide Social Workers with suggested criteria for considerations when assessing a recipient's post-disaster contact needs
- Develop and maintain a CMIPS II database that identifies need for contact, special impairments, and medical supply needs of recipients in a disaster situation
- Generate a monthly report listing recipient, by need, for contact in disaster situations. The report indicates the primary language of non-English speaking recipients

Intent and Limitations

The following guidelines are provided for Social Worker use in the assessment of IHSS recipients and the need for contact in a disaster situation. This DP guide does not attempt to cover all possible factors to be considered when predicting a recipient's contact needs in the aftermath of a disaster. Although some criteria refer to the “Functional Index”*, this guide does not use the same assessment approach or principles of the “Uniformity Guide”. Determining a recipient's response need after a disaster is not entirely dependent upon functioning level. *Instead, the primary factors are the recipient's support network and environment.* These include:

- The quality and availability of the recipient's support systems
- The recipient's access to adequate transportation
- Whether or not the recipient lives in a geographically isolated area

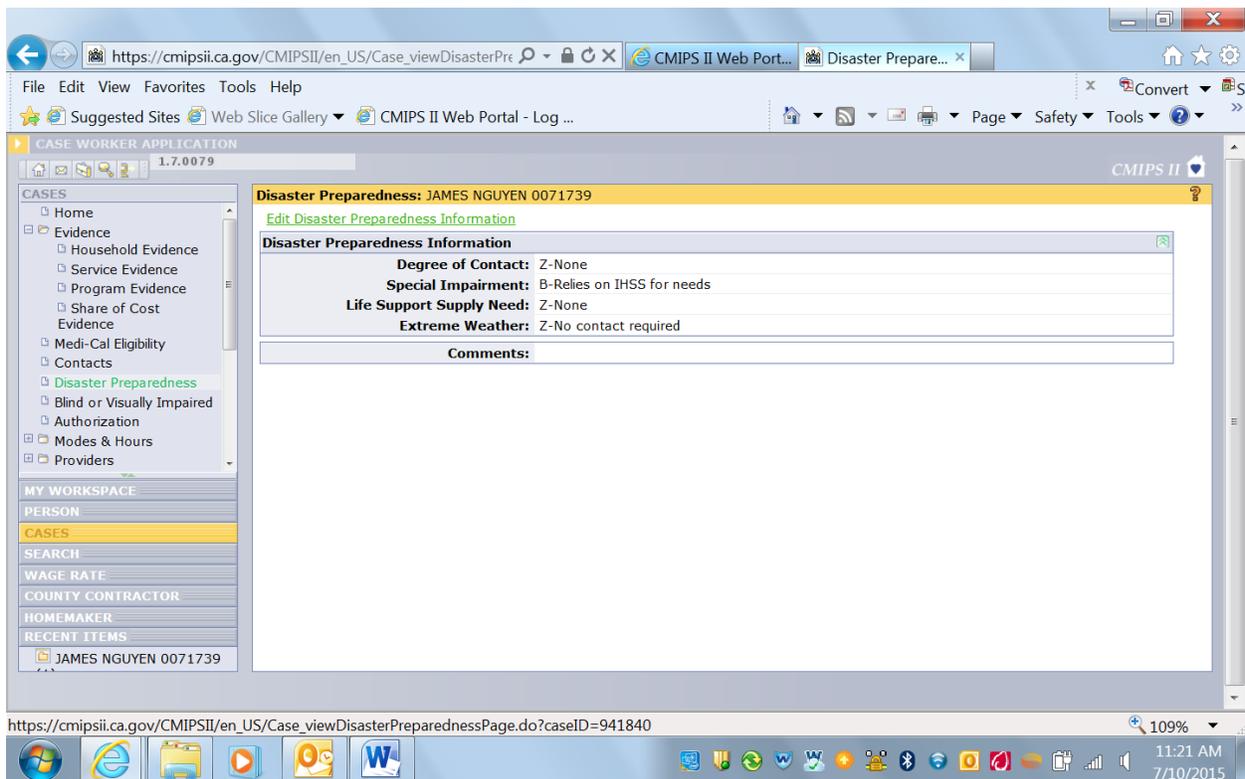
These factors and other applicable criteria, will determine the recipient's level of contact necessary.

*Functional Index is a system generated number between 1 and 5 which indicates the relative need of a recipient for IHSS. Individual scores from Functional Limitations are weighted to provide the functional index ranking for each recipient.

Special impairments, such as blindness, deafness and medical supply needs, do not by themselves determine a recipient's DP coding. These are secondary factors the Social Worker must consider, along with the recipient's environmental and other support needs. A Social Worker's evaluation of a recipient relies heavily upon independent judgment and unique knowledge of the recipient's circumstances. This guide does not replace the Social Worker's expertise and role in decision-making; it is merely an aid.

IHSS Caseload Disaster Preparedness (DP) Designations

The DP field in CMIPS II accepts one designation for each of the positions indicated below. All four positions must be filled.



- The first letter indicates the “Degree of Contact” necessary
- The second letter indicates the predominant “Special Impairment”
- The third letter indicates the predominant “Life Support Supply Need”
- The fourth indicates when contact will be needed during “Extreme Weather” conditions

First Position – Degree of Contact

This position indicates the recipient’s vulnerability during or after a disaster. Enter the letter corresponding to the recipient’s need.

A-Critical (within 24 Hours)

B-Urgent (within 48 hours)

C-Moderate (within 72 hours)

Z-None

The following codes are not used by San Diego County:

D-Critical but consumer declines

E-Urgent but consumer declines

F-Moderate but consumer declines

Second Position – Special Impairment(s)

The second position indicates the special impairment of the recipient. Enter the letter corresponding to the dominant impairment. What is the reason for the coding on the first position? If critical or urgent, this tells the first responder why.

- A-Severely Disabled or Bedfast
- B-Relies on IHSS for needs
- C-Functional Rank 4
- D-Functional Rank 5
- E-Heavy Medication
- F-Blind
- G-Deaf
- H-Lacks Transportation
- I-Lives in isolated area
- J-Receives Protective Supervision
- Z-No Special Impairments

The following codes are not used by San Diego County:

- K-Independent Low Hours
- L-No Mental Functional Ranks of 5
- M-Functional Index below 2.75
- N-Functional Index over 2.75 with assistance available
- O-Home accessible by Emergency Services

Third Position – Life Support Supply Need

The third position indicates the primary life support supply used by the recipient. Enter the letter corresponding to the most needed life support supply. Which service, if removed, is the most life-threatening?

A-Respirator

B-Oxygen

C-Insulin

D-Life Support Medications

E-Dialysis

F-Paramedical Services

Z-None

Fourth Position – Extreme Weather

The fourth position indicates the type of extreme weather condition that would require contact to the recipient. Enter the letter that corresponds to the recipient's need.

A-Extreme Cold

B-Extreme Heat

C-Extreme Heat and Cold

Z-No Contact Required

First Position – Degree of Contact

The following are examples used to determine First Position, *Degree of Contact* designations. An individual is considered to be vulnerable when adequate support systems for emergencies are not in place (socially isolated, conflicts with family, etc.). Enter letter A - C in the *Degree of Contact* field when the recipient:

- Is severely impaired or bedfast with a Functional Index (FI) score of 2.75 or higher
- Relies heavily or completely on IHSS for need. Close to or at maximum hours/dollars
- Has a "Functional Limitation"*** of 4 or above for Meal Preparation, Transfer, Eating, or Bowel & Bladder care.
- Is blind or significantly visually impaired. (IHSS Aid Code- 20)
- Has a Functional Limitation of 5 or above for Respiration, Memory, Orientation or Judgment.
- Receives Protective Supervision
- Has a current or past Adult Protective Services (APS) case related to abuse, neglect, or abandonment
- Is heavily medicated or a substance abuser
- Is deaf or has a disability limiting communication
- Lives in a geographically isolated area inaccessible to community emergency services
- Lacks access to adequate transportation
- Provider(s) or alternate resources are sometimes unreliable
- Other

*Functional limitations are restrictions in performing fundamental physical and mental actions used in daily life such as mobility (physical) or memory (mental).

An individual is not considered to be vulnerable when strong, adequate, and reliable support systems are in place. Enter a "Z" in the *Degree of Contact* field when the recipient:

- Functions fairly independently and needs minimal IHSS (low hour recipients).
- Physical or mental functioning does not greatly affect his/her ability to cope with a

disaster (has no Functional Limitations greater than 2 for Memory, Orientation or Judgment).

- Functional Limitations greater than 2 but support system is strong adequate and reliable
- Is non-severely impaired with an FI below 2.75
- FI is above 2.75, severely impaired, but is in a shared living arrangement, has a live-in Provider, or has dependable, accessible alternate resources
- Resides in a geographical area accessible to community emergency services
- Other

Situations

The following situations are guidelines for the assessment of Position One. These criteria are not all inclusive. Determining a recipient's need for contact requires the Social Worker to use their independent judgment as they assess the recipient's vulnerability, special impairment, and life support supply needs.

Code A - Critical

Recipients designated under this category would receive first priority for contact should a major disaster occur. Recipients receiving this priority are bed bound, severely mentally disabled, in need of special life support supplies, and/or have minimal or no social supports. This designation also includes recipients in isolated locations or heavily dependent on IHSS and have problems with continuity of services.

Example 1

Mrs. S is diagnosed with Organic Brain Syndrome with the following characteristics:

- FI score is 2.75 or higher, mentally impaired and bedfast, and has a Functional Limitation of 4 or higher in Mobility.
- Limited communication ability
- Lives in a geographically isolated area, inaccessible to community emergency services, and lacks access to adequate transportation.
- Lacks adequate support systems for emergencies
- Uses oxygen
- Recipient indicates desire for contact

DP Coding = ABB

Example 2

Mr. H is a deaf, quadriplegic client with the following characteristics:

- FI score is 2.75 or higher, severely impaired.
- Functional Limitation of 4 or higher in Mobility
- Limited communication ability
- Lacks adequate transportation
- Support systems are inadequate.
- On oxygen and requires tube feeding and suctioning

- Provider(s) is sometimes unreliable.
- Recipient indicates desire for contact.

DP Coding = AAB

Code B - Urgent

Recipients placed in this second priority category are considered less severe than critical cases and would receive contact after Code A recipients. These recipients have some reliable social supports. Some Code B's may be bed bound or severely restricted, but not on critical life supports such as oxygen or dialysis.

Example 3

Mr. D is a heart patient on medication and with the following characteristics:

- Depends heavily upon IHSS, but his provider(s) is fairly reliable.
- Functional Limitation of 5 in Memory
- Lacks adequate transportation
- Support systems are somewhat reliable.
- Recipient indicates desire for contact.

DP Coding = BED

Code C – Moderate

Recipients placed in this category would receive contact after the Critical (A) and Urgent (B) recipients. Typically these recipients may have special impairments (e.g. deafness) but do not have life support supply needs. They may have partially reliable support systems and do not live in geographically isolated areas.

Example 4

Mr. D is a heart patient on medication and with the following characteristics:

- Relies fairly heavily on IHSS
- Functional Limitation of 5 in Memory
- Somewhat visually impaired.
- Functional Limitation of 4 in Mobility
- Does not have access to transportation
- Social supports are good, and he does not live in a geographically isolated area
- Recipient indicates desire for contact

DP Coding = CEZ

Non-Critical Code Z - Recipients placed in this category would not require an emergency contact should a major disaster occur, primarily because they have strong or adequate support systems, have access to transportation or they do not live in a geographically isolated area. Also, these recipients do not have physical or mental conditions that would affect their abilities to cope with a disaster. Their FI scores are low or moderate.

Example 5

Mr. T does not have a major, medical impairment, or any medical supply needs, and has the following characteristics:

- Functions fairly independently and requires minimal IHSS (low hours).
- Physical and mental functioning do not affect ability to cope with a disaster
- FI score is less than 2.75, non-severely impaired
- Residence is not in a geographically isolated area.

DP Coding = ZZZ

Example 6

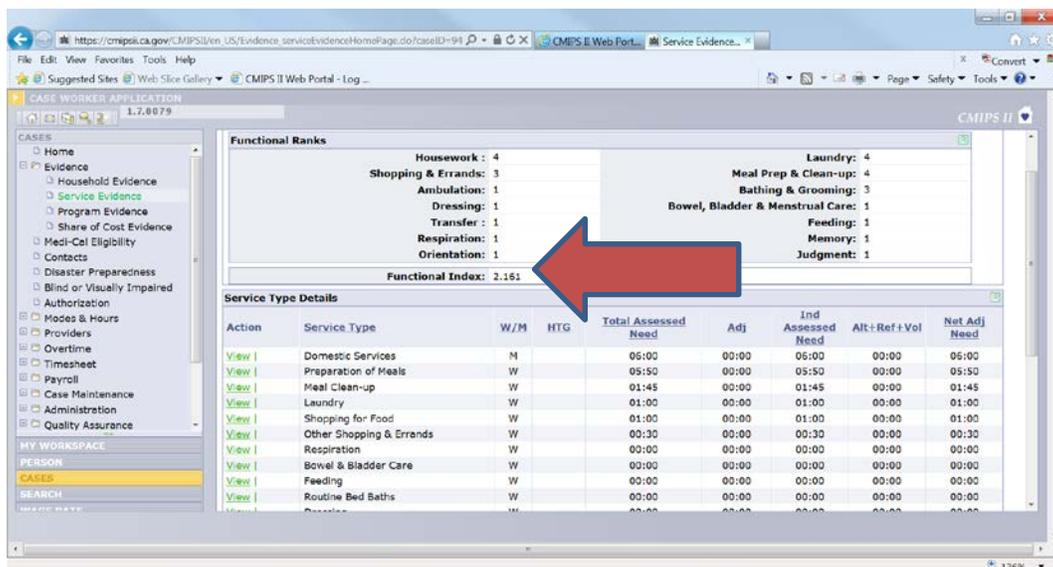
Tom is a 12-year-old child diagnosed with cerebral palsy from birth trauma with the following characteristics:

- Relies heavily on IHSS
- FI scores are well over 2.75 and confined to a bed or wheelchair.
- Functional Limitations of 5 in Judgment.
- Nonverbal
- Functional Limitations of 5 in Mobility
- Uses oxygen periodically
- Mother is the primary attendant, father is very helpful, and the family has other supports.
- The family has transportation and does not live in a geographically isolated area

Coding is Z because of the parental and other family support

DP Coding = ZCB

Location of Functional Index



Mental Functioning***Memory***

Rank 1: No problem: Memory is clear.

Rank 2: Memory loss is moderate or intermittent.

Rank 5: Severe memory deficit.

Orientation

Orientation is the awareness of time, place, self, and other individuals in one's environment.

Rank 1: No problem: Orientation is clear.

Rank 2: Occasional disorientation and confusion, recipient does not put self at risk.

Rank 5: Severe disorientation which puts recipient at risk.

Judgment

Judgment is the ability to make decisions that will not put self or property in danger.

Rank 1: Judgment unimpaired.

Rank 2: Judgment mildly impaired.

Rank 5: Judgment severely impaired.