Natural Disaster Recovery and Reporting Services

Expediting support and action at critical times

How federal and state governments respond to a disaster is important to human lives, economic growth and the public's perception of government management.

Large disasters triggered by events such as hurricanes and floods are managed in two phases:

1. The relief phase, coordinated and managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), focuses on making shelter, food and medical services available immediately to the affected community.

2. The recovery phase focuses on rebuilding the community (e.g., housing, infrastructure and economy). This can be a long, drawn-out process that creates frustration and hardship for citizens and local communities.

THE CHALLENGE

When a President declares a national disaster, affected states are required to develop action plans to receive federal funds. These plans must be approved before any funds can be distributed. They also require state grantees (e.g., a state housing authority) to put in place the infrastructure to manage the program. This infrastructure includes policies and procedures as well as an enabling information management and financial reporting system.

While housing grants typically account for about 50% of the authorized disaster recovery funds, other federal grants related to community revitalization also need to be managed in this way. As a result, it can become a very complicated, collective process when such programs need to be "turned on" at moment's notice.

The process of re-developing program policies, administrative procedures and business rules for each disaster is costly and causes extensive delays in mobilizing a disaster recovery program. This in turn delays getting funds to citizens and businesses in desperate need.

THE SOLUTION

At CGI, we have experience working with several states to set up these policies and procedures, as well as the information and financial management systems required for administering program activities.

We see numerous commonalities and opportunities for improving this process so states can get recovery programs up and running more quickly. We have developed a Disaster Recovery Playbook and an Information and Financial Reporting System to help states disburse critical support to citizens.

PARTNER OF CHOICE

CGI has a proven record of delivering solutions and expert consulting to support states in disaster recovery. We enhance this value proposition through vendor independence, thought leadership and industry expertise.

KEY BENEFITS

- Expedite program development, implementation, policies and procedures
- Produce an audit trail of funding decisions and funds disbursement
- Protect data through secure applications and systems
- Assure program integrity with a measured, focused, holistic, enterprise-wide approach
- Streamline efforts with structured, flexible, tested and proven methodologies

Disaster Recovery Playbook

Based on our experience working with multiple states executing disaster recovery action plans, we have developed a policy and procedures playbook for states to use to expedite program implementation. Features include:
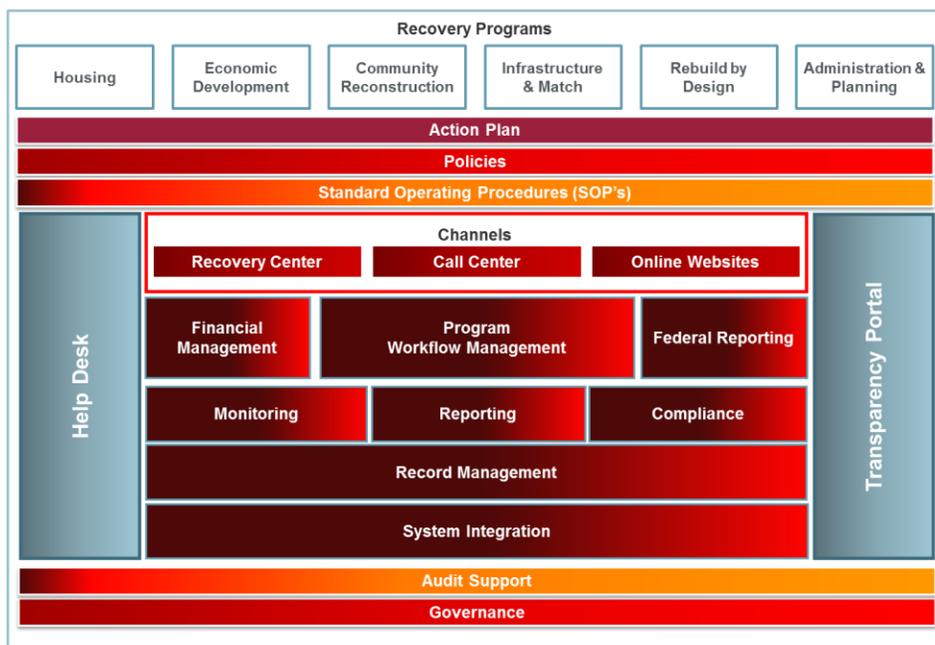
- Pre-defined action plan components with pre-loaded options for configuration, including a drill down of activities with detailed options for implementation
- Templates for policies and procedures to administer recovery programs
- Full-service training and support to set-up local intake centers for applicants to apply for grants

The objective of the playbook is to get business rules, policies and procedures defined early to allow the focus to move to disbursement of funds.

Disaster Recovery Information and Financial Reporting System

CGI has developed a proven, comprehensive disaster recovery information and financial system to support states administering recovery operations. Features include:

- Program administration and policy information support
- Comprehensive grant and financial management system with ability to link to banks and applications for electronic funds disbursement
- Automated application processing and eligibility determinations
- Integration with major federal grant management systems to support federal and programmatic reporting requirements
- Transparency and audit support of application and grant disbursements
- Cloud-based solution that can scale based on usage and consumption.

Additional services

CGI also helps states in disaster recovery with subject matter expertise; system development, integration and operations management; secure-cloud services; and financial reporting.