

After Recovery

Closure of the Recovery Program

Formal and informal evaluations and reviews of Mission Statement and strategies to accomplish the goals set for the LTR group will help determine the time for closure of response to the disaster and work toward recovery.

The closure may come for several reasons:

- All disaster-related needs have been met.
- Resources are exhausted.
- All cases have been referred to other providers.

Steps in closure might include the following:

- A formal evaluation and review that explores what was accomplished, who provided leadership, success of the processes developed and used, appropriateness of the assistance offered to victims, and the effect of the LTR group's work on the community
- A time of community celebration for the successes and expression of appreciation to leadership, supporters and staff/personnel
- Final closure, transition, or referral of remaining cases
- Completion of financial operations, including audit/review
- Final reporting to the community and funders

Maintaining a Collaborative Structure for Future Disaster Recovery Work

Ongoing communication and collaboration among community agencies is often an outcome of their work during the disaster recovery. Most often the group will adopt one or more of the following scenarios:

- A shift in the mission to focus on planning and mitigative activities to enhance preparedness for the next disaster and reduce the community's vulnerability
- Maintenance of the LTR structure for future disaster recovery, especially if the area is disaster prone
- Maintenance of relationships and structures for on-going community social service work

There are benefits in maintaining an ongoing structure, for example:

- Prepared and educated community leadership
- Timely and coordinated response for large and small disasters
- Strengthens the community's social fabric

See Appendix VII, Common Terms and Definitions, Community Organizations Active in disaster (COAD) and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).