

**Community Focus Statement C:** Improve public safety, health and welfare within the community.

**Action Statement C.2:** Establish an access and functional needs assessment for residents and businesses within Mentone.



**Benchmarks:** A functional needs assessment for the Mentone community is completed and updated annually.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated cost:** Less than \$500



People with disabilities, as well as children and older adults, have additional requirements in an emergency, known as access and functional needs. These needs may include maintaining independence and having access to communication, transportation, and medical care, all of which are critical for ensuring the health and safety of community members after an incident. An access and functional needs assessment will allow Mentone to understand and prepare for the diverse requirements of residents and businesses in the community.

*Access and functional needs infographic. Photo source: City of Richardson, Texas*

This assessment will not focus on needs at an individual level, but rather will integrate the requirements of people with access and functional needs into all planning efforts for communication, evacuation, sheltering, and recovery in an emergency. It will address barriers to accommodation of access and functional needs that are specific to Mentone, including older developments which may not support Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, limited mobility without a car, and isolation of individuals with disabilities. Conducting outreach to the entire community, specifically to those with access and functional needs, will allow Mentone to identify immediate needs as well as longer-range planning goals to ensure the community can respond equitably in an emergency.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to serve on a functional needs assessment task force.	Champion	Year 1 -3	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services: Access and Functional Needs <a href="http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs">http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs</a>
2. Select a leader to serve as chair of the task force.	Functional Needs Assessment Task Force	Year 1 -3	
3. Develop a methodology for identifying and inventorying functional needs for an emergency event in Mentone.	Functional Needs Assessment Task Force	Year 1 -3	FEMA: Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters <a href="https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odid/fnss_guidance.pdf">https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odid/fnss_guidance.pdf</a>
4. Create a functional needs database that is easily accessible by community leaders or other groups.	Functional Needs Assessment Task Force	Year 1 -3	California Governor's Office of Emergency Services <a href="http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs">http://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/access-functional-needs</a>
5. Revisit the functional needs assessment to reassess the situation and update as necessary.	Functional Needs Assessment Task Force	Annually	Case Study: Adams County, Colorado <a href="https://www.adcogov.org/access-and-functional-needs">https://www.adcogov.org/access-and-functional-needs</a>