

# YOUTH PREPAREDNESS

EMPOWERING THE NATION'S FUTURE



FEMA

Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time, often without warning. Disaster planning, response, and recovery efforts must take into account the unique needs of children, who make up roughly a quarter of the U.S. population. These efforts should also engage the unique strengths children bring to emergency preparedness.

- **Children are positive influencers.** Children can effectively bring the message of preparedness home to their families.
- **Children can become leaders.** Participating in youth preparedness programs empowers children to become leaders at home and in their schools and communities.
- **Children can be confident during an emergency.** Children who are prepared experience less anxiety and feel more confident during actual emergencies and disasters.

Starting or getting involved with a youth preparedness program is a great way to enhance a community's resilience and help develop future generations of prepared adults. The Federal Emergency Management Agency offers numerous resources that can help. Visit [Ready.gov/youth-preparedness](https://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness) for the latest offerings and information.

## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR YOUTH PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION

Developed by FEMA, the U.S. Department of Education, and the American Red Cross, the [National Strategy for Youth Preparedness Education](#) presents nine steps partners can take to help build a Nation of prepared youth. The steps focus on building partnerships to enhance youth preparedness learning programs; connecting young people with their families, communities, first responders, and other youth; and increasing preparedness at school.

## START A YOUTH PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Anyone can start a youth preparedness program. Establishing one takes effort, but many resources are available to help. [Youth Preparedness: Implementing a Community Based Program](#) presents seven steps to start and sustain a program. Additional resources are available at [Ready.gov/youth-preparedness](https://www.ready.gov/youth-preparedness), including many materials in [Spanish](#).

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

FEMA technical assistance providers can help individuals and organizations start and maintain a youth preparedness program. To request assistance, email [FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Youth-Preparedness@fema.dhs.gov).



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## CURRICULA AND TRAINING MATERIALS

A variety of youth preparedness programs exist already, each one designed to meet the needs of different communities and the different age groups of youth participants.

- The [FEMA Youth Preparedness Catalog](#) lists existing preparedness programs and directs readers to curricula and resources tailored to youth.
- [Student Tools for Emergency Planning](#), or STEP, is a classroom-based emergency preparedness curriculum for fourth- and fifth-graders that's easy to use.
- [Teen Community Emergency Response Team](#) (Teen CERT) training teaches readiness and response skills through hands-on, realistic activities.

## YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

FEMA's [Youth Preparedness Council](#) brings together young people from across the country as advocates of youth preparedness and community leaders. Council members attend the annual Youth Preparedness Council Summit in Washington, DC, meet periodically with FEMA representatives, and work to complete a number of emergency preparedness projects.

## CHILDREN & DISASTERS NEWSLETTER

This resource for youth preparedness practitioners, educators, parents, children, and teens shares timely research, success stories, safety tips, and other resources related to youth preparedness. [Subscribe](#) for the latest updates or view [archived issues](#).

## WEBINARS

The [Community Preparedness Webinar Series](#) provides up-to-date information on preparedness topics and resources, including these webinars related to youth:

- [STEP into Preparedness](#) presents the latest [STEP materials](#) and shares tips and lessons learned while teaching the program.
- [Preparing Youth for Disasters](#) focuses on engaging the public in disaster preparedness and resilience efforts serving youth.
- [From Tots to Teens: Emerging Research and Practices to Address the Unique Needs of Young Disaster Survivors](#) covers emerging trends in research on the coping behaviors of children affected by disasters and their practical applications when planning for or working with children.