



Silicon Valley VOAD Partnership

Objectives of SVCN & CADRE Partnership

1. Act together as a local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) entity to mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters in Santa Clara County
2. Provide fora to promote cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration by nonprofit organizations and their partners
3. Facilitate more effective delivery of nonprofit service to the community affected by disaster

Background

When a disaster occurs, neighbors and community organizations want to reach out and help, but this isn't always easy. During a disaster, organizing a community response may be hindered by the chaos created by the specific event. Communities are better served if a Community VOAD is in place for collaboration, coordination, communication, and cooperation.

A Community VOAD is a collaborative effort of community stakeholders, each having an equal role in the organization. Their goal is to organize and deploy community resources in an efficient and timely manner, effectively contributing to each phase of a disaster. The four phases of disaster are:

Mitigation: Activities taken to eliminate or reduce the degree of long term risk to human life, property and the environment from the effects of natural and technological hazards.

Preparedness: Activities taken in advance of an emergency that improves emergency readiness posture and develops or expands operational capabilities.

Response: Activities taken immediately before, during or directly after an emergency occurs to save lives, minimize injuries, lessen property and environmental damage and enhance the effectiveness of recovery.

Recovery: Short term activities to return vital life support systems to minimum operating standards and/or long term activities designed to return the affected people and areas to their pre-disaster conditions.

Values

The Silicon Valley Partnership VOAD adheres to the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters core (NVOAD) values. The Community VOAD member working relationship is achieved through the guiding principles of cooperation, coordination, communication, and collaboration of member organizations.

Cooperation: No member organization has all the answers for the challenges communities face. Organizations must treat members as partners.

Communication: Member organizations will regularly share their capacities, accomplishments, and commitments. Community VOADs must maintain good channels for sharing information, listening carefully to each other, and dealing openly with concern.

Coordination: Community VOAD members commit to working together and not competitively toward the goal of effective service to the community. Members seek to match services to need. Through planning and preparation, Community VOADs equip member organizations to behave in a coordinated fashion in time of disaster.

Collaboration: Community VOAD members dedicate themselves to working together to achieve specific goals and undertake specific projects during each phase of disaster.

Strategies

1. Consider and address the needs of the whole community in all planning efforts, including needs of communities that often experience barriers to access and discrimination based on race, gender, and other
2. Ensure all interested organizations are included in planning and support
3. Ensure organizations with existing communication links and services continue to be the advisor to providing services
4. Ensure communication links and relationships between function leads and cities, county and other partners are strong