



**Maine Mass Care Update  
Prepared by Bill Guindon,  
MEMA Mass Care Coordinator  
January 2023**

## ***Warming Center Tips!***

As many are aware our recent experience with Winter Weather further reminds us to prepare to aid for those without power for an extended period. In a six-day period 60 Warming Centers were reported open during Winter Storm Elliott. Families with small children and older adults are often the most vulnerable. Warming Centers are a great resource to help those who need to get out of the cold have a safe place to go and keep warm.

**A Warming Center** is a facility opened for short-term operations due to a specific emergency or event. Warming Centers are often open during regular business hours. They usually are opened when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind, and temperatures have or may become dangerous. Their essential purpose is preventing death and injury related to exposure to the elements.

As we enter the peak winter months, this is a great time to begin planning to set up a Warming Center in your community if needed. The following tips are provided to help ensure Warming Centers in your community are ready to serve those in need:

- Identify potential sites to open Warming Centers that are accessible to the public during regular business hours. (City and Town Halls, Libraries, and Community Centers are excellent facilities that are usually open during normal business hours that work great for community access)
- Utilize facilities that are ADA Complaint and are accessible to those with Accessibility and Functional needs
- Always ensure there are no less than two staff or volunteers on-site at the Warming Center.
- Provide refreshments such as coffee, tea, water, and light snacks for those in attendance.
- Set up electronic device charging station/s to allow for the charging of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops.
- Public Wi-Fi access can be an excellent resource for those occupying the Warming Center.
- Set up at least one hygiene station or offer face masks and hand sanitizers.
- Keep on hand a few blankets and chairs to keep those who need a little extra warmth and a place to sit.

Please notify MEMA of any Cooling or Warming Center Openings through the following email: The email notification address is [CenterShelter.OpenNotification@Maine.Gov](mailto:CenterShelter.OpenNotification@Maine.Gov) (Please provide the location, hours, and facility-specific information.)

The email is automatically forwarded to the MEMA Duty Officer, I/A Officer, Mass Care Coordinator, MEMA PIO, and 211 Maine.



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Opening and closing of Centers will be posted on the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) WebEOC and MEMA Website platform by the Mass Care Coordinator or Individual Assistance Office when notified by the Local Municipal or County Emergency Management Agency of a Center Opening

**Shelter Surveying Class for Local, County, and Tribal Emergency Management Agencies**

MEMA Mass Care is offering a 2-Hour Virtual Sheltering Identification and Surveying Course for Local, County, and Tribal Emergency Management Agencies utilizing the Microsoft TEAMS Platform.

The objective of this course is to ensure Local, County, and Tribal Emergency Management Agencies and Municipal Officials can Review and Identify Primary and Secondary Disaster Emergency Shelter Sites in their respective Communities by covering the following topics:

- Understand the purpose of Pre-Disaster Shelter Surveys.
- Understand how to determine the capacity of an Evacuation Center and Disaster Emergency Shelter.
- Understand the importance of Access and Functional needs and ADA Compliance in a Disaster Emergency Shelter.
- Identify potential facility resources and limitations for sheltering.
- Understand the Shelter Survey Form and its terminology.
- Learn how to conduct a Shelter Survey and what partners should participate in the Survey.
- Identify resources available to support Shelter Surveying efforts.
- Identify how to prepare a Shelter Plan using a Shelter Planning Worksheet.

The course will include one post-course assignment that involves a survey of a local Disaster Emergency Shelter Facility. Participants are encouraged to complete and submit the post-course work within 30 Days of a session. Participants may submit the course assignment on behalf of a single agency upon submission of a roster of survey participants. Post-course work submitted will be reviewed and feedback will be provided along with a Certificate of Attendance.

The course will be offered on several dates and times to accommodate availability of participants at no cost. In person and agency specific course deliveries are available upon request. For further questions please contact Bill Guindon, MEMA Mass Care Coordinator at 207-458-2867 or [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov)



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To Register for a Session please fill out the following registration form and select the offering you will attend: Confirmation for course registration will be sent upon receipt. Scan and email completed registration form to: [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov)

Name: Agency Affiliation:  
Phone Number: Email:  
City/Town: County:

Course Offerings: (Please check session you will attend)

Date: January 11, 2023- Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 1/9  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: January 12, 2023- Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 1/9  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: February 1, 2023- Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 1/27  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: February 1, 2023- Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 1/27  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: February 16, 2023- Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 2/13  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: March 9, 2023- Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 3/6  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: March 22, 2023- Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 3/17  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

Date: March 22, 2023- Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration Deadline: 3/17  
Please return completed form to [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) by Registration Deadline

**Those who register for a course will receive an email confirmation with a TEAMS Meeting Invitation no less than 48 hours prior to the course offering**



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**MEMA Mass Care Sheltering Courses available upon request**

The MEMA Mass Care Sheltering Course in-person or virtual deliveries are available on request. The 1-hour course is targeted at providing local, county, and tribal Emergency Management Agencies to enhance local Sheltering capacity in a Natural or Human-caused Disaster. Those interested in hosting or attending the course are encouraged to reach-out to Bill Guindon, MEMA Mass Care Coordinator at [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) or 207-458-2867.

**What is Family Reunification in a Natural or Human-caused Disaster?**

Reunification support services provide mechanisms that help displaced disaster survivors reestablish contact with family and friends. This service is critical for the personal reconnection of disaster survivors and their relatives who may have limited means to communicate and reunify. Communities can help constituents who are separated from family and friends, by developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated reunification services program. For additional information and resources follow this link:

**<https://nationalmasscarestrategy.org/nmcs-resource-center/nmcs-reunification-support/>**

**MEMA Mass Care Sheltering Handbook**

The MEMA Mass Care Sheltering Handbook for Local, County, and Tribal Emergency Management Agencies has been prepared for distribution. The Shelter Handbook, September 2022 edition, is a tool to provide Local, County, and Tribal Emergency Management Agency Staff and Volunteers with forms that may be needed when opening a Congregate Shelter due to a Natural or Human-Caused Disaster. The Handbook template and documents provide the framework to assist Agencies and Organizations in setting up and operating a Shelter consistent with Mass Care Sheltering Best Practices. Each Segment includes a Cover Page. The use of the documents will allow for a smooth transition in the event the American Red Cross or other organizations assume management and operations of a Congregate Shelter. Please feel free to request an electronic version of the Shelter Handbook at no cost by contacting the MEMA Mass Care Coordinator at [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) or calling 207-458-2867.

**MEMA Welcomes a new Individual Assistance Officer**

Please join the Maine Emergency Management Agency in welcoming our new Individual Assistance Officer, Lynn Walkiewicz pronounced “Wal-KEV-itch.” Lynn started work on November 28, 2022. and can be reached at the following: [Lynn.Walkiewicz@maine.gov](mailto:Lynn.Walkiewicz@maine.gov) or 207-620-4251.



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## **Maine Feeding Partners Update**

The Maine Feeding Partners continues to meet Bi-Weekly through Microsoft Teams.

We continue to monitor food security in the state of Maine. The following is a summary of the current situation based on information presented at meetings:

- Demands for assistance at Food Banks, Food Pantries, and Soup Kitchens has increased at little over 10 % since the same time last year.
- Donations to many Food Security initiatives are down as high as 50 % due in part to increased costs for fuel and other items.
- The USDA has announced a variety of initiatives to support local food initiatives including farming, school nutrition, and capacity building. For more information contact the USDA at [Funding Opportunities, Resources, Events and Learning: Innovation Matters \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.usda.gov/funding-opportunities-resources-events-and-learning-innovation-matters)
- The University of Maine is conducting a pilot project to provide an electronic platform for food donations to Food Banks and Food Pantries in Knox County.
- The Maine Feeding Partners Bi-Weekly meetings are open to all individuals, agencies, and organizations (Local, Regional, State, Federal Government, and Non-Government). For a meeting invite, please email me at: [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov).

**There are a variety of Feeding Nutrition programs available from state and federal agencies. The following is a list of programs available for residents which includes acronyms:**

### **National School Lunch Program- NSLP**

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential childcare institutions. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

### **School Breakfast Program- SBP**

The School Breakfast Program (SBP) provides reimbursement to states to operate nonprofit breakfast programs in schools and residential childcare institutions. The Food and Nutrition Service administers the SBP at the federal level. State education agencies administer the SBP at the state level, and local school food authorities operate the program in schools.



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**Special Milk Program- SMP**

The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides milk to children in schools and childcare institutions who do not participate in other federal meal service programs. The program reimburses schools for the milk they serve. Schools in the [National School Lunch](#) or [School Breakfast Programs](#) may also participate in the Special Milk Program to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs.

**Child and Adult Care Food Program- CACFP**

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating childcare centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides reimbursements for meals served to children and youth participating in afterschool care programs, children residing in emergency shelters, adults over the age of 60 or living with a disability and enrolled in day care facilities. CACFP contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and

**Summer Food Service Program- SFSP**

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is a federally funded, state-administered program. SFSP reimburses program operators who serve free healthy meals and snacks to children and teens in low-income area adults in the United States.

**Team Nutrition**

Team Nutrition is an initiative of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service to support the child nutrition programs through training and technical assistance for foodservice, nutrition education for children and their caregivers, and school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity

**Community Food Systems- OCFS**

The Office of Community Food Systems helps child nutrition program operators incorporate local foods in the [National School Lunch Program](#) and its associated programs, as well as the [Summer Food Service Program](#) and [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#). In addition, OCFS staff works with tribal communities to respond to their desire to incorporate traditional foods into our meal programs. OCFS accomplishes this through [grant making](#), [training and technical assistance](#) and [research](#).



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**The Emergency Food Assistance Program- TEFAP**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate TEFAP.

**Nutrition Assistance- SNAP**

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

**Special Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Women, Infants, and Children- WIC**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

**Source: USDA**

**For Feeding Assistance in Maine please contact the following:**

**[www.maine.gov/dhhs/programs-services/food-nutrition](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/programs-services/food-nutrition)**

**[www.maine.gov/wic](http://www.maine.gov/wic)**

**[www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition](http://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition)**

**[www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/tefap/index.shtml)**



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**Maine VOAD Update**

**Maine VOAD Announces the 2023 Training Schedule  
Open to all Members and Partners**

**All sessions are delivered virtually at 3:00 p.m. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month through Microsoft Teams. There is no charge for attending sessions.**

**Session Topics are as follows:**

**(Session Topics may be adjusted to accommodate Presenter Availability due to unanticipated schedule changes.)**

**January 17, 2023- Continuity of Operations Planning for Community Organizations**

**February 21, 2023- 211 Maine**

**March 21, 2023- Individual Assistance in Disasters**

**April 18, 2023- ICS for VOAD**

**May 16, 2023- Muck-Out and Cleaning Best Practices in a Disaster**

**June 20, 2022- Family Assistance Centers in Disasters**

**July 18, 2023- Accessibility and Functional Needs of Disaster Survivors**

**August 15, 2023- Emotional and Spiritual Care for VOAD Responders**

**September 19, 2023- Multi-Agency Resource Centers**

**October 17, 2023- The Salvation Army of Northern New England**

**November 21, 2023- American Red Cross of Northern New England**





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**December 19, 2023- United Way of Kennebec Valley**

All sessions will be up to 1.5 Hours with additional time for questions and discussions. Please email Maine VOAD Co-Chairs Sam Michaud or Tom Dobson [mevoad@nvoad.org](mailto:mevoad@nvoad.org) or MEMA Mass Care Coordinator Bill Guindon, [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) if you have questions.

*To access Maine VOAD Training sessions please go to the following:*

## **Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 285 368 886 023

Passcode: teGQXu

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

**Please reach out to me if I can be of any assistance to support your Mass Care needs at the following email: [william.guindon@maine.gov](mailto:william.guindon@maine.gov) or by phone 207-458-2867.**