

## SHORT-TERM SHELTER

| DESCRIPTION       | A Short-Term Shelter is in an existing facility (or facilities), such as a school, community center, convention center, or church temporarily converted to provide safe, accessible, and secure short-term housing for disaster survivors.  |   |  |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| RESOURCE CATEGORY | Mass Care Services  | RESOURCE KIND                           | Facility   |
| OVERALL FUNCTION  | <p>A Short-Term Shelter:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for the short-term needs of disaster survivors, typically for up to two weeks</li> <li>Provides a safe and accessible location for life-sustaining support, such as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dormitory</li> <li>Feeding</li> <li>Hydration</li> <li>Basic medical care</li> <li>Sanitation</li> </ol> </li> <li>Provides a range of essential resident services, depending on the needs of disaster survivors and the resources available to the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for people with access and functional needs</li> <li>Health and mental behavioral health services</li> <li>Family reunification assistance</li> <li>Childcare</li> <li>Service animal and household pet care</li> <li>Distribution of life sustaining, comfort, and other essential supplies</li> <li>Laundry</li> <li>Access to transportation</li> <li>Disaster recovery related information and services</li> </ol> </li> </ol> | COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AHJ estimates the shelter resident capacity required and determines the facility accessibility requirements to support people with disabilities, access and functional support needs, and those with service and assistance animals</li> <li>Facility planning considerations include the maximum number of shelter residents expected; proximity to the displaced population's homes, schools, and jobs; and the status of the utility and transportation infrastructure. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The facility should be a safe, accessible, and secure structure not at risk from the disaster</li> </ol> </li> <li>A Short-Term Shelter maintains a variety of staffing, equipment, and material resources; Refer to the Sheltering Guidance Aid and Staffing Matrix on the National Mass Care Strategy (NMCS) website for sample staffing ratios</li> <li>For equipment and material ordering guidance, refer to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Commonly Used Sheltering Items &amp; Services Listing (CUSH-SL)</li> </ol> |

| RESOURCE TYPES |                 |                    | TYPE 1  | TYPE 2      | TYPE 3    | TYPE 4       |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| COMPONENT      | METRIC/ MEASURE | CAPABILITY         |   |             |           |              |
| Facility       | Per Facility    | Shelter Population | 2,000 or more   | 500 - 1,999 | 250 - 499 | 249 or fewer |
|                |                 |                    | <b>NOTES:</b> Refer to the NMCS Mega-Shelter Planning Guide for additional guidance on NIMS Type 1 and NIMS Type 2 shelters |             |           |              |

Superseded



| RESOURCE TYPES |                    |            | TYPE 1   | TYPE 2                   | TYPE 3                  | TYPE 4                             |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| COMPONENT      | METRIC/<br>MEASURE | CAPABILITY |  |                          |                         |                                    |
| Facility       | Per Facility       | Area       | Over 140,000 sq. ft.   | 35,000 - 140,000 sq. ft. | 17,500 - 35,000 sq. ft. | Under 17,500 square feet (sq. ft.) |
|                |                    |            | <b>NOTES:</b> 1. Calculate dormitory requirements for Short-Term Shelters using an average of 40-60 sq. ft. per shelter resident. Americans with Disability Act (ADA)-related reasonable accommodation requirements may necessitate additional dormitory space for shelter residents with disabilities, access and functional needs, and those with service and assistance animals, usually estimated at up to 100 sq. ft. per person.<br>2. Other shelter activity and support areas may need additional space.<br>3. A potential shelter site may meet the general space and access needs, but may need supplemental sanitation and other capabilities, such as toilets, showers, and hand-washing stations. |                          |                         |                                    |

Superseded

## COMMENTS

1. These shelters are facilities that can accommodate survivors, including people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs that require supportive services to maintain their independence while accessing the shelter, its programs, and services.
2. Shelters must meet the ADA accessibility requirements. In circumstances where supportive services are not initially available, the AHJ may use a non-compliant facility if the AHJ makes reasonable and timely modifications to make it accessible.
3. Short-Term shelter facilities established in large vacant stores, warehouses, arenas, stadiums, convention centers, or similar high-capacity venue, facility, or soft-sided structures may require significantly more planning, preparation, and resources to operationalize.
4. FEMA and American Red Cross National Shelter System (NSS) databases can inventory and track Short-Term Shelter facility information.

## REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 509: Access and Functional Needs Advisor
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Fixed Site Security Team Supervisor
3. FEMA, NIMS 508: Public Health and Medical Team in a Shelter
4. FEMA, NIMS 508: Shelter Facility Selection Team
5. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Facilities Support Team Leader
6. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Manager
7. FEMA, NIMS 508: Shelter Management Team
8. FEMA, NIMS 509: Shelter Resident Services Team Leader
9. FEMA, Commonly Used Sheltering Items and Services Listing, August 2011
10. FEMA, Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters, November 2010
11. International Association of Venue Managers (IAVM)/American Red Cross, Mega-Shelter Planning Guide, October 2010
12. National Mass Care Council, Shelter Guidance Aid and Shelter Staffing Matrix, October 2010
13. National Mass Care Council, Multi-Agency Sheltering/Sheltering Support Planning Template, October 2014
14. US Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Checklist for Emergency Shelters, July 2007
15. US Department of Justice, Guidance on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, September 2010

## NOTES

Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.

**Superseded**