

Tier 3—Ready Faith Award of Distinction

To obtain the Award of Distinction, the religious assembly pledges to assist the local emergency management agency IF they are available to do so. To achieve this level, the assembly leadership should:

- Complete the Ready Congregation and Ready Assembly programs
- Have a trained Community Emergency Response team for the facility.
- Assembly adopts at least one area of expertise from the following list to volunteer as a Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD) member or with the local emergency management agency:
 - Assessment Team (Damage and/or unmet needs)
 - Child Care
 - Crisis Intervention
 - Chainsaw/Debris Removal
 - Feeding
 - Sheltering
 - Volunteer/Donations Management
- Assembly leadership and those members volunteering on the above COAD team(s) complete FEMA Independent Study courses IS 100 and IS 700



Final Thoughts & Considerations

It is not the intent to exclude any specific religion or ideology with this program. In fact it's quite the opposite. All religious organizations are encouraged to participate. To that end, if any items or terms discussed in this brochure are offensive or contrary to your religious beliefs, we ask that you please explain them to the presenter so we can ensure inclusion of all faiths.

Historically speaking, the faith based community partners have always shown their willingness to assist in times of need post-disaster. The Ready Faith program is being designed to continue to foster those relationships and establish a baseline of training and understanding in the emergency management realm.

In its current form, the Ready Faith program is being tested in up to 12 facilities to learn best practices and to tweak the program in hopes of presenting it to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for statewide rollout. By completing this program in its current form you have begun the process of collaborating and building relationships with your local emergency management agency. However, a statewide rollout may mean there will be some additional items to be completed in order to be recognized at the state level.

Please direct any questions regarding this program to the LaSalle County Emergency Management Agency or to your local emergency management director.

READY FAITH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR
RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLIES AND THEIR
FOLLOWERS



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Program Highlights

The Ready Faith program is designed to encourage citizens to make a commitment towards becoming both personally prepared and towards ensuring the safety of their faith based assembly.

Working with your local emergency management agency, the assembly leadership can help spread the preparedness word to their members enabling them and/or their facility to potentially assist in times of disaster.



Three Steps To The Ready Faith Designation

The Ready Faith Program has three levels of participation and the leadership of the assembly can choose what level they would like to participate. The end goal of the program is to foster a positive and beneficial working relationship between the local emergency management agency and the faith based community.

Tier 1—Ready Congregation

To obtain the Ready Congregation designation, the congregation and leadership should:

- The facility hosts (minimally) an annual preparedness event or exercise as an outreach activity
- Leadership includes a minimum of four preparedness topics/discussion in the church bulletins or newsletter
- Provide congregation with a family communication plan and encourage its use.
- Congregation is encouraged to build a disaster supply kit for their home.



Tier 2—Ready Assembly

To Obtain the Ready Assembly the assembly leadership should:

- Complete the Ready Congregation program
- Complete a quarterly (minimally) safety walkthrough.
- Complete a hazard vulnerability assessment
- Have a written Emergency Action Plan
- Have a functioning NOAA all hazards weather alert radio.

