



Red Cross/MRC Memorandum of Agreement At-a-Glance

The newly updated Red Cross/MRC Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) serves to optimize the coordination and utilization of resources between the Red Cross and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for the benefit of disaster-impacted communities. Both national organizations are committed to engaging in collaborative discussions supporting local partnership agreements and large-scale national response operations.

Local Partnership Agreements

This formal commitment between a Red Cross Region and a Local MRC Unit allows the organizations to collaborate in enhancing community resilience against emergencies by fortifying their relationship and jointly undertaking projects and activities that align with their mutual objectives. The agreement should outline any joint initiatives and cooperative efforts aimed at preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies, thereby ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to community support.

A sample Local Partnership Agreement Template can be found on [OneSource](#) or by contacting your state MRC Coordinator.

Local Partnership Opportunities



Provide reciprocal training to volunteers from both organizations (for example, Red Cross disaster response, MRC training, and jointly organized Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training programs).



Coordinate in the development of emergency response and recovery plans, as well as formulate standard operating procedures for communication during disasters and emergency situations.



Participate in community education initiatives, including safety campaigns and health fairs, playing a vital role in enhancing public health and well-being.



Engage in preparedness activities, including shelter and reception center exercises, and participate in local government tabletop exercises, workshops, and drills.



Collaborate in providing services to clients in local Mass Care activities.



Where applicable, distribute educational materials on blood donation, aid in donor recruitment, and volunteer at Red Cross Biomed facilities.

National Partner Affiliate

The newly updated MOA between the national offices of the Red Cross and MRC offers the opportunity for MRC volunteers to deploy to national disaster response operations to supplement critical Health and Mental Health activities in Red Cross facilities, like shelters and family assistance centers. This national partner affiliate program currently applies to credentialed/licensed health and mental health volunteers only. Requests for deployment, volunteer rostering, etc. will be coordinated through the Red Cross and MRC national offices.



Provide Health Services in Red Cross facilities such as Shelters and Family Assistance Centers.



Provide Mental Health Services in Red Cross facilities such as Shelters and Family Assistance Centers.



Ensure that all individuals have equitable access to resources and support during emergencies, with inclusivity and dignity for everyone.

Licensure or Certification Requirements

Disaster Health Services*:

Licensed Advanced Practice Nurse, Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, Medical Doctor, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Physician Assistant, Paramedic, Certified EMT

Disaster Mental Health:

Psychiatrist, Psychologist, School Psychologist, Master's Degree & Licensed Social Worker, Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, School Counselor

Training Requirements

National Disaster Relief Partner Affiliate (~3.5 hrs./~4.5 hrs.)

- DCS: An Overview (25 min)
- Concept of Operations (18 min)
- DHS Fundamentals (2 hrs.) or DMH Fundamentals (3 hrs.)
- Deployment Fundamentals (31 min)
- Mission Cards (14 min)

**BLS or CPR/AED certification required*

Background Check, Liability, and Insurance

Red Cross conducts a background check as part of the registration process and provides professional liability protection to deployed workforce engaging within the activity procedures and scope of licensure while under the supervision of an authorized Red Cross worker.

Red Cross workers and partner affiliates are covered by the organization's corporate insurance Medical professional liability policy for claims that arise out of the course and scope of their Red Cross duties.

MRC volunteers deployed in Red Cross facilities are permitted to wear MRC-branded materials and identify themselves as MRC professionals while supporting Red Cross efforts.

Volunteer Application

Local activities for MRC volunteers do not require registration in the Red Cross Volunteer Connection system. However, MRC volunteers interested in deploying to Red Cross national disaster response operations must register via the dedicated MRC Volunteer Link or QR code.

