



Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management

**MRC MINI GRANT REPORTING FORM**

For units who received an MRC mini grant in BP4, please complete this form as part of the end of year reporting.

**Project General Information:**

MRC Unit Name:	<b>Nonotuck</b>
Point of Contact Email:	<b>mwk@kin.umass.edu</b>
Name of Project:	<b>Enhancing Community Resiliency</b>
Person Completing Report:	<b>Mary Kersell and Trish Abbott</b>
Date:	<b>7/11/16</b>

**Project Description - Please write a brief narrative (1 to 2 paragraphs):**

The purpose of the project was to increase the trained membership of the Nonotuck MRC, forge stronger ties with a community organization that serves a large vulnerable population and to provide 500 families with 72 hour plan information and a Go-Kit for use during emergencies.

The project had five key components

1. Increase personal preparedness among 500 families with food insecurity by providing:
  - Personal Go Kit with supplies (flashlight, first aid kit and can opener)
  - 72-hour family emergency plan brochure
  - FEMA family communication wallet card with a sleeve
2. Recruit Easthampton Community Center/CERT into the MRC
3. Provide a modified MRC 101 training to Community Center and Nonotuck MRC/CERT volunteers to include: ICS, psychological first aid, personal preparedness and emergency food handling and choke saver training. Twenty people attended and several indicated that they would consider joining the MRC. MRC members were interested in helping with Easthampton Community Center emergency response activities. We also distributed the Western MA MRC Policy and Procedures Manual.
4. Review and update the ECC Continuity of Operations plan to ensure inclusion of Nonotuck info.
5. Update Nonotuck MRC Volunteer and Unit Preparedness Kits.



**Project Details:**

<p>Project Rationale: How did you choose this project? (Related to AAR, or other gaps)</p>	<p>We work with the Easthampton Community Center (ECC) to improve resiliency among their service population of 1100 families with food insecurity (3400 people, in total) by providing monthly public health messages. This project continued that outreach effort. The population served by the ECC includes many people with Access and Functional Needs, crossing all age ranges from children to the elderly, multi-cultural groups and those with economic instability. ECC is the “Go-To” place for these families. Staff is well trusted and respected. They are extremely pro-active regarding preparedness and are a member of the Pioneer Valley COAD. They are using this project as a model for other members of the Foodbank of Western Massachusetts.</p> <p>The project was designed to encourage these vulnerable people to prepare for an emergency, so that they are self-sufficient and do not need emergency services.</p> <p>We are at a point where we have strong enough ties with the ECC to begin to cross-train volunteers from both agencies. Easthampton also has an active CERT team and we invited them to the training, as well. Collaboration is critical to any response.</p> <p>Since we plan to collaborate during some other emergency responses, especially Mass Care and Sheltering, we reviewed the ECC Continuity of Operations plan to ensure inclusion of MRC information.</p> <p>We maintain Volunteer Go Kits for our unit volunteers when they are deployed. Some items were out of date, so we used the funding to update the kits.</p>
<p>PHEP Capabilities that your project addressed: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/capabilities/">http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/capabilities/</a></p>	<p>Capability 1: Community Preparedness: Functions 2,3,4 Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination Capability 14: Responder Safety and Health Capability 15: Volunteer Management</p>
<p>Objectives that your project addressed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide 72 hour plan materials in a Go Bag, along with donated emergency supplies (flashlight, first aid kit) to 500 Easthampton Community Center families.</li> <li>2. Provide a wallet card in a sleeve which includes emergency contact numbers (personal and agency) for ECC and distribute to 500 ECC families</li> </ol>



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop MRC 101 presentation for ECC/ MRC volunteers /CERT to include psychological first aid, Incident Command, personal preparedness as well as food safety during emergencies, and choke saver training and provide ½ day training.</li> <li>4. Work with the ECC Director to review the ECC Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure inclusion of Nonotuck MRC where appropriate.</li> <li>5. Update Nonotuck MRC volunteer Go-Kits and Preparedness Kits</li> </ol>
<p>Project Planned Activities:          What deliverables, products, or outputs were expected? Did you meet those outputs? Where different outputs achieved?</p>	<p>We met all planned outputs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Modified MRC 101 PowerPoint presentation and presented the planned training to MRC/ECC and CERT volunteers on June 4, 2016 (N=20)</li> <li>2. Provided supplies for 500 Go-Kits (can openers). ECC donated first aid kits and flashlights. Helped to assemble the kits.</li> <li>3. Provided 72 Hour Plan brochure , Ready Easthampton flyer and Disaster Preparedness for Seniors (ARC) brochure for 500 Go-Kits</li> <li>4. Provided FEMA family emergency contact card in a sleeve for Go-Kits</li> <li>5. Nonotuck Volunteer Go Kit (re-supply out of date items e.g. hand sanitizer; add flashlight, alcohol wipes, burn salve, sunscreen.</li> <li>6. Update Nonotuck Unit emergency kits with battery chargers (3).</li> </ol>
<p>Funding Associated with this project:          (Please provide a narrative of the costs incurred with this project).</p>	<p>Supplies: \$1700          Staff Time: \$1700</p>
<p>Other feedback or comments to share about your project?</p>	<p>Thank you for providing this funding opportunity to assist us with developing community resiliency and enhancing our Nonotuck MRC unit capabilities.</p>