In order for communities to effectively prepare and respond to disasters, all stakeholders (governmental agencies, businesses and the nonprofit sector) must work together to develop a disaster action plan and a process for response. The following outline provides a framework for community partners to consider in developing appropriate plans and actions.

❖ **Identify the types of disasters a community might face**
  - Pandemic
  - Weather related (Hurricanes, Tornados, Floods, Ice storms, Excessive snow, etc.)
  - Fire
  - Earthquake
  - Bio-terrorism

❖ **Identify community partners for each type of disaster - Example: Pandemic**
  - Health Department
  - City officials
  - Hospitals and staff
  - Community Service Agencies and Programs
    - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
    - Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
    - Food Banks
    - Local Shelters
  - Civic organizations
  - School district(s)
  - Churches
  - Media
  - Local businesses (restaurants, grocers, pharmacies)

❖ **Identify, define and describe levels of disaster**
  - Mild
  - Medium
  - Severe

❖ **Identify action steps necessary to protect local community**
Identify chain-of-command for each level of disaster

Identify vulnerable populations
- Infants and small children
- Senior citizens
- Low income

Identify contacts and communication plan

Develop medical care plan
- Hospital care
- In-home care
- Quarantine procedures

Develop feeding plan
- Food and water availability
- Utilization of USDA commodities
- Food preparation for those unable to prepare for themselves
  - Utilizing restaurants
  - Utilizing school facilities
  - Utilizing church facilities
- Transportation of food as needed
  - Local transit operations (buses and cabs)
  - Local school buses

Develop shelter plan
- Utilization of public facilities
- Utilization of private facilities

Develop and organize volunteer staff