ESF-6 Coordination Activities:

- Staffing of Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC’s) / Essential Services Centers (ESC’s)
  - Typically, staff support is requested from the following agencies (additional agencies are sometimes added due to nature of event):
    - Department of Children and Families
    - Department of Economic Opportunity
    - Department of Elder Affairs
    - Department of Veterans’ Affairs
    - Crisis Counseling
  - DRC Staffing and service levels are recommended as follows:
    - If a State Agency has specific disaster related services to provide at the DRC/ESC, on-site staffing is required for at least the first full 3 days of operation, to include at least one weekend day of operation.
    - After this time period, staffing can be reevaluated based on client traffic and needs.
  - Transition to Health and Social Services RSF upon activation of that RSF
Activation Services

- **Family Safety / Child Welfare:**
  - Transfer Protective Investigations to Law Enforcement for immediate action cases – if safe for LE to go out
  - Account for the safety of Florida’s foster care children (including those in emergency shelter status under an open, active child protective investigation).
  - Coordinate efforts for foster parents regarding housing, clothes or food as needed
  - The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) staff communicates with other states after a disaster in an area that affects another state’s children. ICPC staff will provide as much information to the responsible state regarding the location of the child and resource family as well as emergency contact information and evacuation plans

- **Adult Protective Services:**
  - Resume investigations of abuse, neglect, exploitation and self neglect of vulnerable adults.
  - Check on Community Care for Disabled Adults (CCDA), Home Care for Disabled Adult (HCDA), Medicaid Waiver and Protective Services Clients
  - Assist local Special Needs Shelters.
Activation Services

- **Mental Health Treatment Facilities:**
  - Ensure the safety of residents, staff and property of state owned and contracted residential treatment facilities

- **Child Care Licensing:**
  - As soon as conditions are safe, contact and physically inspect all licensed child care facilities and homes to determine their needs. It is the responsibility of the licensing unit to assure that if damaged facilities or homes are operating, they are operating safely.
  - If applicable, Headquarters will notify licensing specialists and supervisors as to which licensing standards have been suspended by Executive Order and the duration that they will be in effect. Under no circumstances will a provider be allowed to operate if it is determined that the safety of children is in jeopardy.
Activation Services

- **Economic Self-Sufficiency:**
  - Replacement of SNAP Benefits - Current SNAP recipients can get a replacement for food destroyed in a household misfortune or disaster, and purchased with SNAP benefits. The replacement cannot be more than the amount of benefits the household received for the month of the disaster.
  - Non-Staggered Issuance – SNAP benefits are normally issued to households during the entire month, based on the case number. This is referred to as staggered issuance, and it helps manage grocery store visits and supplies. When a disaster occurs, the Department may release the staggered schedule and make monthly benefits available to households all at one time.
  - Maximum Benefits - When the Department implements a Disaster SNAP Program, we also request federal permission to increase the SNAP benefits of current recipients to the maximum benefit amount for the household size. This provides equity in the benefit amounts of recipients in the regular Program with those in the Disaster Program.
  - Allowance of Hot Food Purchases – SNAP benefits can normally only be used to buy unprepared foods. When a disaster occurs, the Department can request federal approval to allow SNAP recipients in the Regular and the Disaster Program to purchase hot meals with their benefits.
Activation Services

- **Economic Self-Sufficiency (Cont’d.):**
  - Determine which areas require a Disaster SNAP Program
  - DCF can request approval on County-by-County basis from Federal USDA, Office of Food and Nutrition Services
  - The federal criteria for assessing the need for a Disaster Program include
    - Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance
    - Severe and widespread damage and employment losses
    - Long term power outages - Typical guidance is 72 hours with at least 50% of customers within a county without power
    - Disruption of commercial food channels.
  - Application site typically open 10-14 days post landfall, depending on severity of damage and assuming:
    - Power is restored
    - Retailers are back on-line
  - Sites run for 5 consecutive days per county, generally to include at least one weekend day.
Activation Services

- FEMA Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) – “Project Hope”
  - Primary services:
    - DRC Deployment
    - Individual and Group Crisis Counseling
    - Community Outreach
    - Resource Linkage
    - Networking Supports to Long Term Recovery Agencies
  - Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance required
  - Funding: FEMA CCP Immediate Services Program grant application from DCF
    - Due 14 days after Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster
    - Program costs for first 60 days of response
    - If ongoing need exists a Regular Services Program can extend for additional 9 months if approved
  - Staffed through existing DCF Mental Health Provider Network