



IMPACT 2025

Through Extension programs across the nation, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Educators provide a multitude of Educational opportunities to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

Disaster Preparedness

Disaster preparedness is a crucial component of community resilience, equipping individuals and families with the knowledge and resources necessary to respond effectively to emergencies. Through a variety of educational initiatives, these programs have provided essential guidance on emergency response planning, disaster recovery, and crisis management.

Program Reach and Participation

A total of 5,664 community partners participated in disaster preparedness programs across multiple states. These programs addressed key areas such as flood relief, emergency food preparation, and family readiness planning.

State-Specific Highlights

Several states implemented impactful programs to educate communities on disaster preparedness:

- **Arkansas:** The *Disaster Preparedness Cookbook* initiative helped community members learn how to prepare meals with limited resources during emergency situations.
- **Georgia:** The *UGA Extension's Emergency Preparedness Team Training* program provided critical knowledge on disaster readiness and response planning.
- **Kentucky:** Programs such as *Flood Relief and Recovery* and *Survive and Thrive After the Storm* helped participants recover from and prepare for future disasters.
- **Mississippi:** Programs like *The Prep Rally*, *The Pillowcase Project*, and *Preparing with Pedro* educated community members on essential disaster preparedness strategies.

- **Utah:** The *2024 Extension Disaster Education Network National Conference* played a key role in disaster preparedness education, promoting community-wide readiness strategies.
- **Wisconsin:** The *52 Ways to Climate-proof Your Finances* played a key role in disaster preparedness education, promoting financial wellness in the face of a changing climate.

These programs reflect a collective effort to strengthen disaster response and recovery efforts through targeted education.



This is vitally important information - I took this class after getting rocked by Hurricane Helene - I am going to develop an emergency plan, pack a Go Bag and a shelter in place box, and develop a communication plan for my family. - UGA Extension's Emergency Preparedness Team Training Program, Laurens County Participant



Kentucky's Survive and Thrive: Disaster Preparedness Series

Key Areas of Impact

Disaster preparedness programs focused on multiple aspects of emergency planning, including:

- **Emergency Food and Water Preparedness:** Teaching individuals how to store and prepare food safely in disaster conditions.
- **Flood Recovery and Response:** Providing guidance on how to rebuild homes and communities after natural disasters.
- **Youth and Family Readiness:** Educating families on creating emergency plans, assembling preparedness kits, and responding effectively to crisis situations.
- **Community Resilience and Support:** Engaging local networks to build stronger, more disaster-resilient communities.

Community Collaboration and Partnerships

These programs were successful due to strong collaboration with community partners, including local governments, nonprofit organizations, and emergency response agencies. These partnerships provided access to additional resources and expertise, ensuring that preparedness efforts were comprehensive and community-driven.

By working with **state emergency management teams, schools, and community centers**, these initiatives helped expand awareness and ensure that vulnerable populations had access to essential preparedness education.

Participant Outcomes and Success Stories

Feedback from participants indicated that these programs significantly improved their ability to prepare for and respond to disasters. Many reported feeling **more confident in their ability to handle emergencies**, with several stating that they had already implemented new preparedness strategies in their homes.

Participant Testimonial

These quotes underscore the value of these programs in helping individuals take proactive steps toward disaster readiness.



When historic flooding hit Eastern Kentucky, 8,900 homes were destroyed or otherwise affected. Flood relief and recovery efforts spearheaded by Extension assisted communities across the region, serving as command centers, boots on the ground, and resources for those in need. - Participant in the Flood Relief and Recovery program



In response to UGA's Extension Emergency Preparedness Team outreach participants were surveyed to impressive findings - 43% of the attendees from Georgia lost electricity for more than 5 days during a weather-related emergency this year and 71% of them intended to develop an emergency plan as a result of the class.



Conclusion and Future Direction

The Disaster Preparedness programs have made a significant impact by fostering collaboration among **5,664** community partners, equipping them with the tools and knowledge needed to improve emergency response and recovery efforts. Moving forward, expanding community engagement, strengthening partnerships, and integrating new educational strategies will ensure continued success in disaster preparedness efforts. By building on these collaborative networks, communities can remain proactive and resilient in the face of future emergencies.

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Raising kids, Eating right, Spending smart



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