

# Early Childhood Interrupted: The Effect of Disasters, Natural or Otherwise on Vulnerable Children and Families


**Pamela Hollingsworth**, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

**Byron Mason**, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Andrew Roszak**, Child Care Aware® of America

**Sarah Thompson**, Director of U.S. Preparedness, US Programs, Save the Children





We are here today to talk about the impact of disaster, natural and manmade on children, families, communities and the childcare systems.

Disaster can strike with or without warning and comes in many forms: hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, mass shootings, toxic water and much more. Young children and families in marginalized communities are particularly vulnerable to both pending disaster and its aftermath.

Today's discussion is a 'call to action' with diverse humanitarian response teams and federal/state/local child advocates who support preparation, recovery and equitable outcomes for young children and families when disaster strikes.



**ASPR**

**Byron R. Mason**  
**July 17, 2018**

# Children as Bellwethers of Recovery

“Children and youth are particularly vulnerable to the effects of disasters. They have limited capacity to independently mobilize resources to help them adapt to stressful postdisaster circumstances, and are instead dependent upon others to make choices that will influence their household, neighborhood, school, and larger social environment.

Children's mental health recovery in a postdisaster setting can serve as a bellwether indicator of successful recovery or as a lagging indicator of system dysfunction and failed recovery.” - [Abramson DM](#)<sup>1</sup>, [Park YS](#), [Stehling-Ariza T](#), [Redlener I](#).

# Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function

**Mission:** To support locally-led recovery efforts to restore public health, health care and social services networks to promote the resilience, health and well-being of disaster-affected individuals and communities.

*HSS RSF Coordinating Agency: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

*HHS also coordinates internally amongst its operating and staff divisions*

## *Primary Agencies*

- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- Environmental Protection Agency

## *Supporting Organizations*

- American Red Cross
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Transportation
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Small Business Administration

# Resources

- ASPR Recovery:
  - [www.phe.gov/about/oem/recovery](http://www.phe.gov/about/oem/recovery)
- ASPR TRACIE: Population-Specific Resources: Children
  - <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov>
- ACF Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response
  - [www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ohsepr)
- [WWW.Ready.Gov](http://WWW.Ready.Gov)

# Are You Prepared?



Help Child Care Programs  
**Prepare, Respond, and  
Recover** from Natural  
Disasters and Emergencies

[\*\*www.ChildCarePrepare.org\*\*](http://www.ChildCarePrepare.org)

Look to Child Care Aware® of America for emergency preparedness, response and recovery resources!

Senior Director of Emergency  
Preparedness



Senior Director of Environmental Health,  
Pandemic Preparedness & Catastrophic  
Response



Senior Preparedness Advisor  
Superbowl 46



Senior Public Health Advisor - HHS  
Health Policy Fellow  
United States Senate



Firefighter - Paramedic



Andrew Roszak



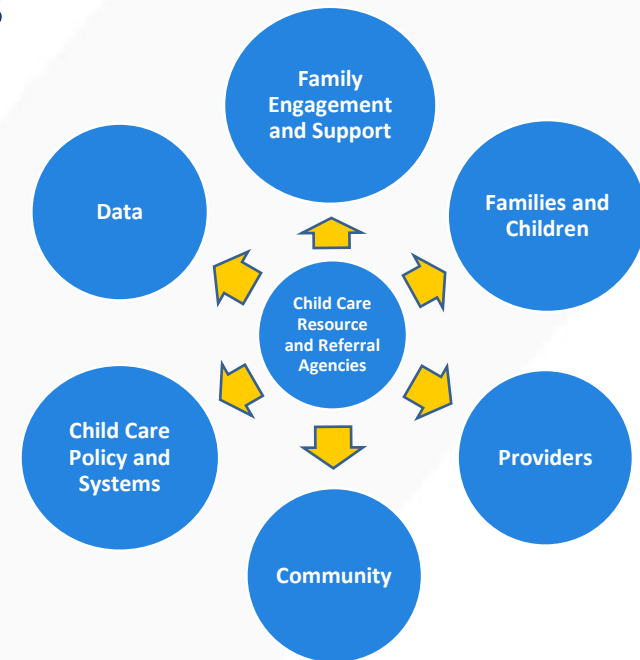
[@AndyRoszak](https://twitter.com/AndyRoszak)



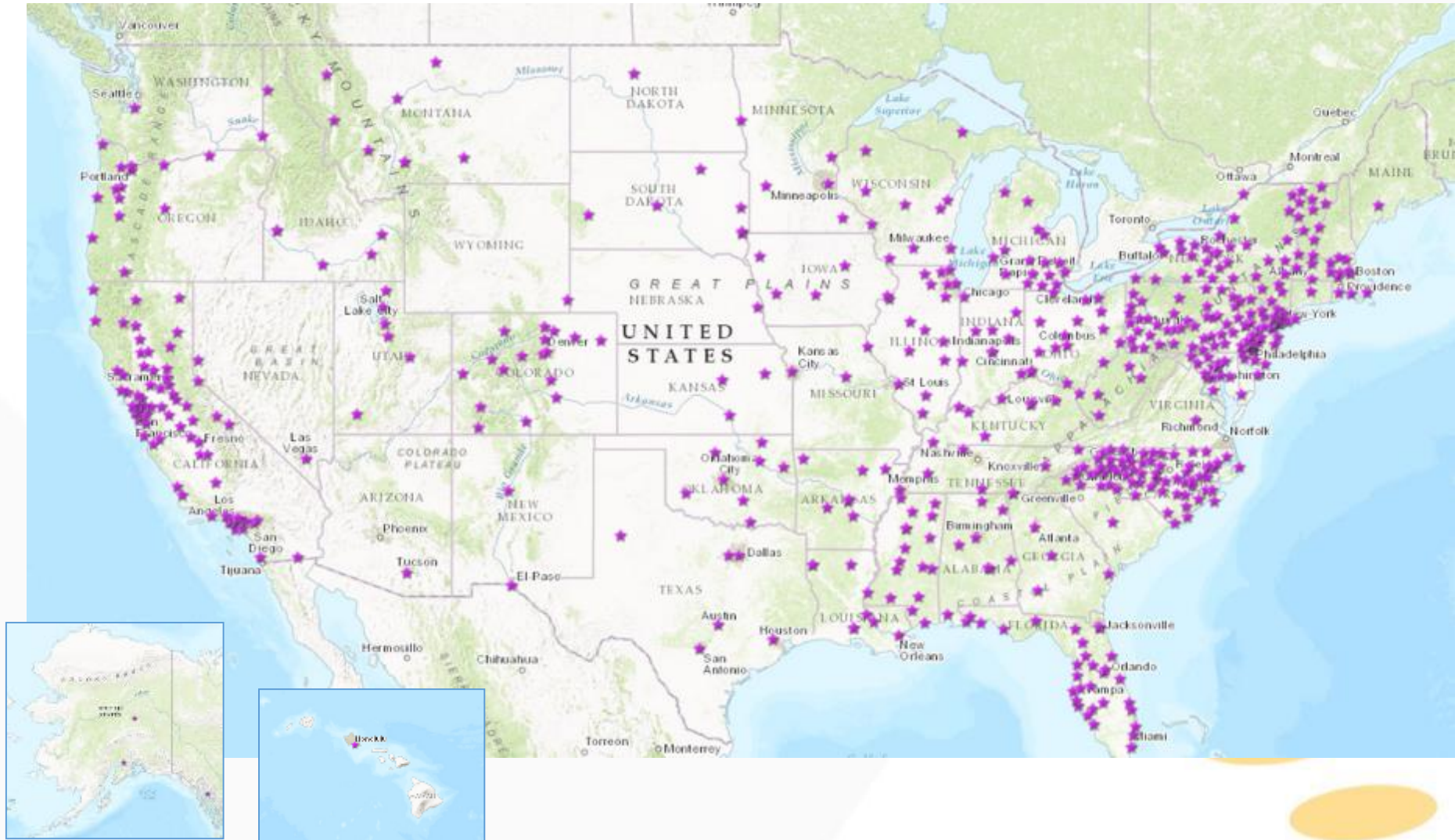


# Our Partners: Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

- Support more than 860,000 families
- Conduct community **needs assessments**
- Administer **child care subsidies** for their state or county
- Train almost **750,000** child care providers per year
- **Connector** within state early childhood system
- Serve as **safe havens**



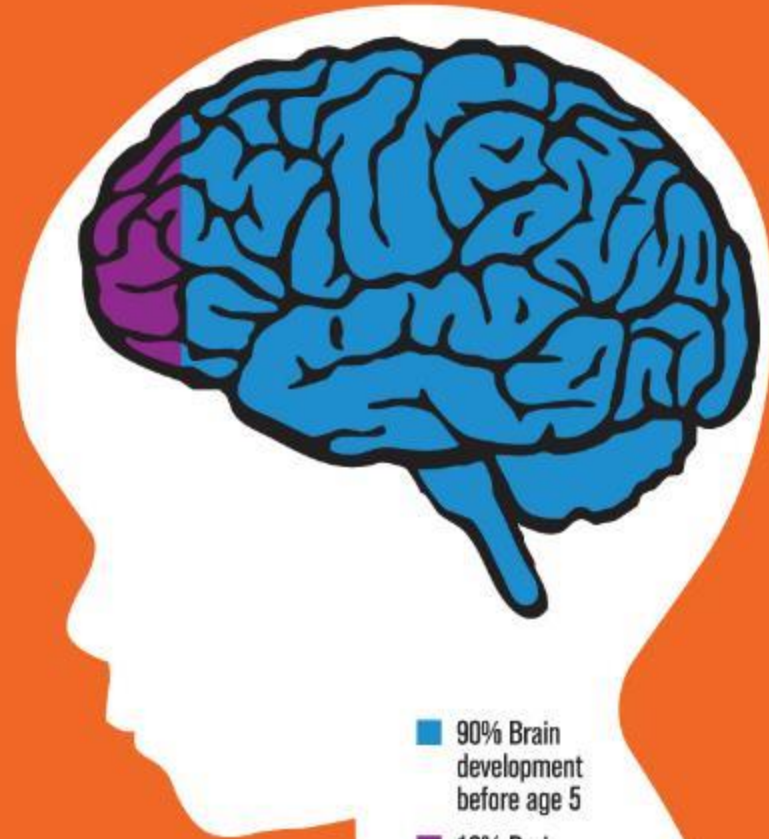
# Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies



# Systemic Challenges

**90%**

**of a child's brain  
development  
happens  
before age 5**



■ 90% Brain  
development  
before age 5

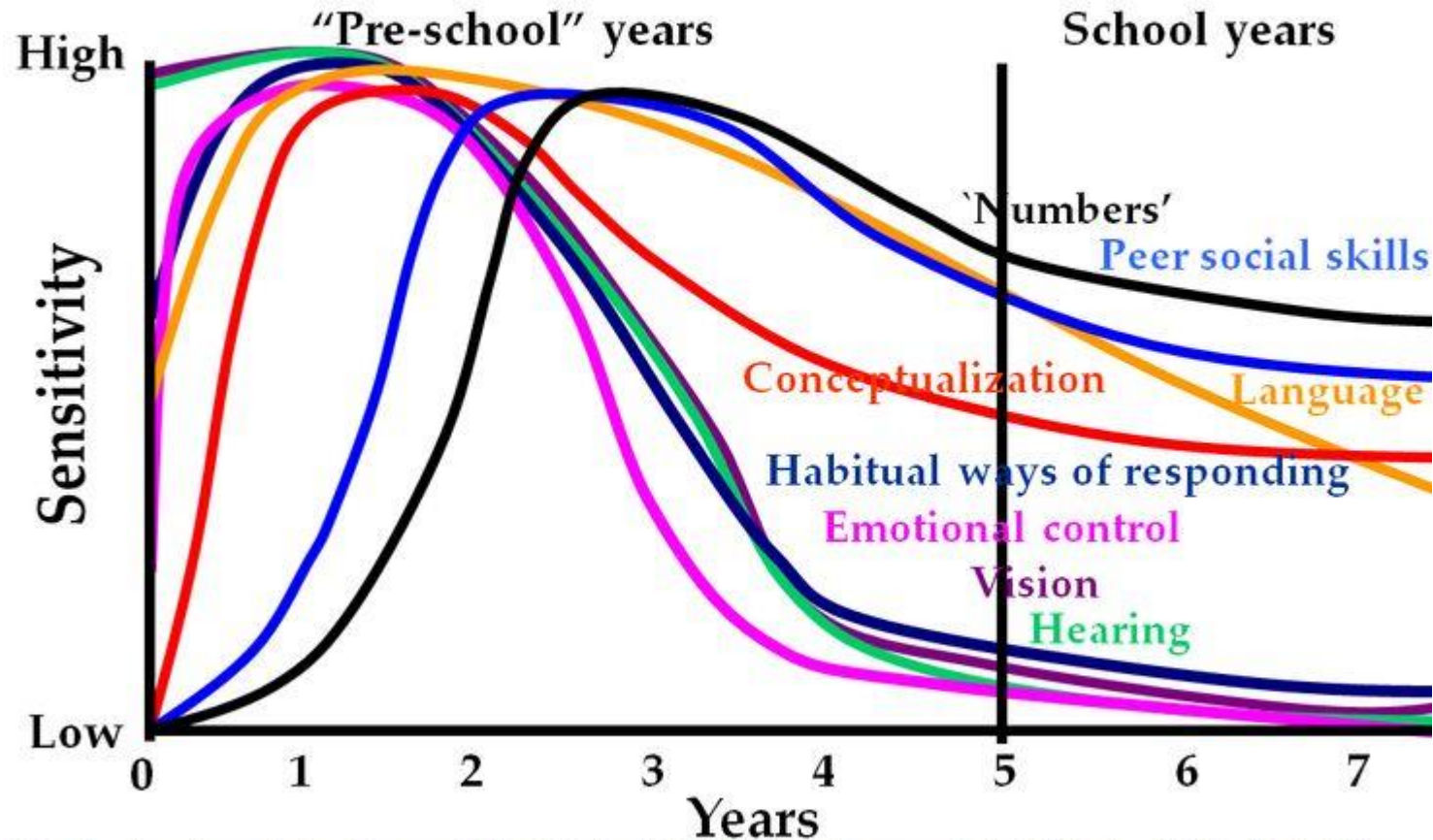
■ 10% Brain  
development  
after age 5

*Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child*



# Systemic Challenges

## 'Sensitive periods' in early brain development



Graph developed by Council for Early Child Development (ref: Nash, 1997; *Early Years Study*, 1999; Shonkoff, 2000.)

# IMPACT: KATRINA

Children displaced by Katrina were 4.5 times more likely to have symptoms consistent with serious emotional disturbance

34% of middle or high-school children were one or more years older than appropriate for their grade (compared to 19% of all children in south)

60% of children displaced by Katrina to congregate settings either have serious emotional disorders, behavioral issues and/or are experiencing significant housing instability

50% of households who had been displaced for at least one year were still living in unstable conditions after four and a half years

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“Legacy of Katrina: The Impact of Flawed Recovery on Vulnerable Children of the Gulf Coast”, Children’s Health Fund and the National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, August 2010.

# IMPACT: JOPLIN

19% in child abuse/sexual trauma  
40% increase in domestic violence  
80% increase in substance abuse  
30% increase in suicides  
Decreased test scores grades 3-12  
52% increase in crisis calls



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## CHILD CARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

# BE PREPARED

**Request Training from  
the Child Care Aware®  
of America's Emergency  
Preparedness Team**



### **Our Preparedness Training Consists of Three Modules:**

- **Module One:**  
Basics of Preparedness
- **Module Two:**  
Plan Development & Review
- **Module Three:**  
Advanced Preparedness Topics

**Total Course Time:  
6 hours**

## VIOLENCE & ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

**VIOLENCE  
CAN HAPPEN  
ANY TIME,  
ANYWHERE.**

**Prepare Yourself, Your Children & Your  
Program with Child Care Aware® of  
America's Violence & Active Shooter  
Training Course**

### Topics covered in the training include:

- Risk Assessments
- Developing a Plan
- Maintaining Situational Awareness
- Securing Rooms/Buildings
- Methods to Deter Violence
- Options When Confronted by Violence
- Conducting Meaningful Drills



# Emergency Preparedness Webinar Schedule

\*All webinars are from 8-9 p.m. ET



Register for Our FREE Webinars at [ChildCarePrepare.org](http://ChildCarePrepare.org)



**5/14**

After the  
Disaster: Food  
Safety and  
Dealing with  
Mold in Your Child  
Care Setting

**6/18**

Keeping Kids  
Safe: Basics of  
Active Shooter  
Response

**7/23**

Let's Get  
Ready:  
Planning  
Together for  
Emergencies

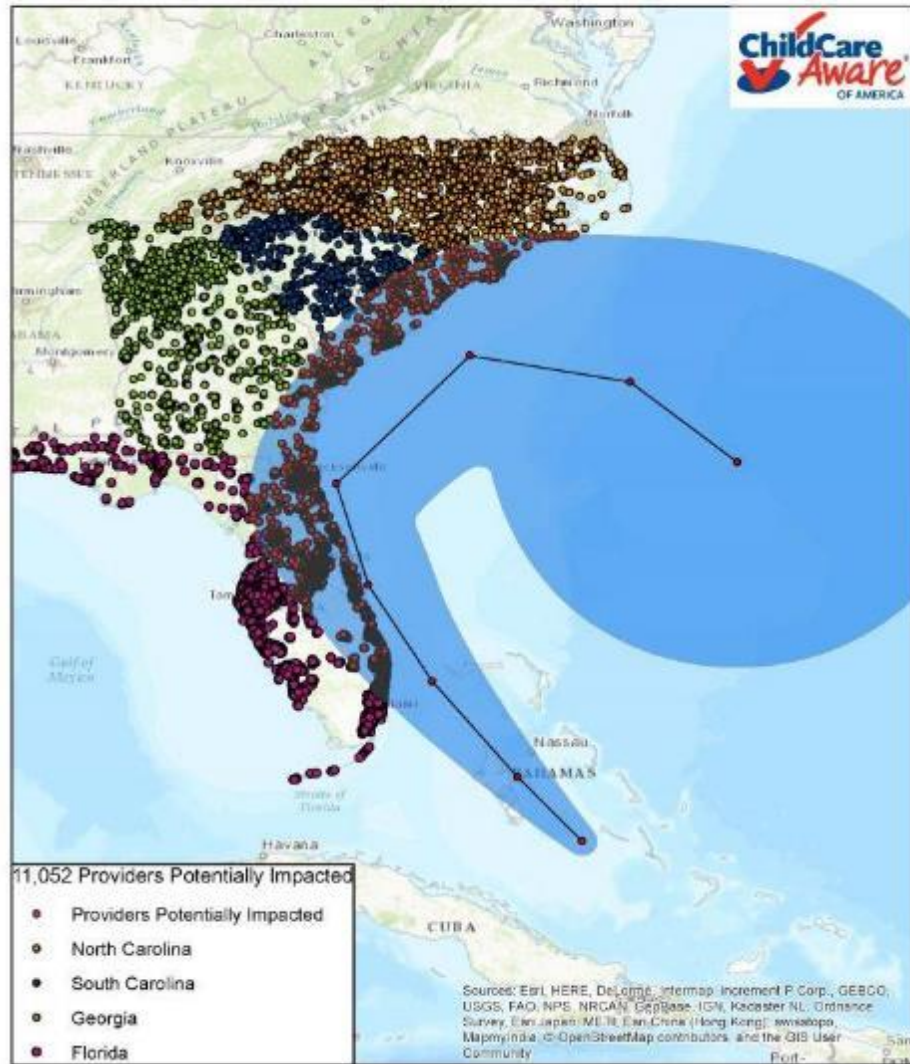
**8/20**

Child Care  
Emergency  
Supply Kits:  
What to Pack  
and Where  
It's At



# State Specific Work

## Child Care Providers Potentially Impacted by Hurricane Matthew October, 2016



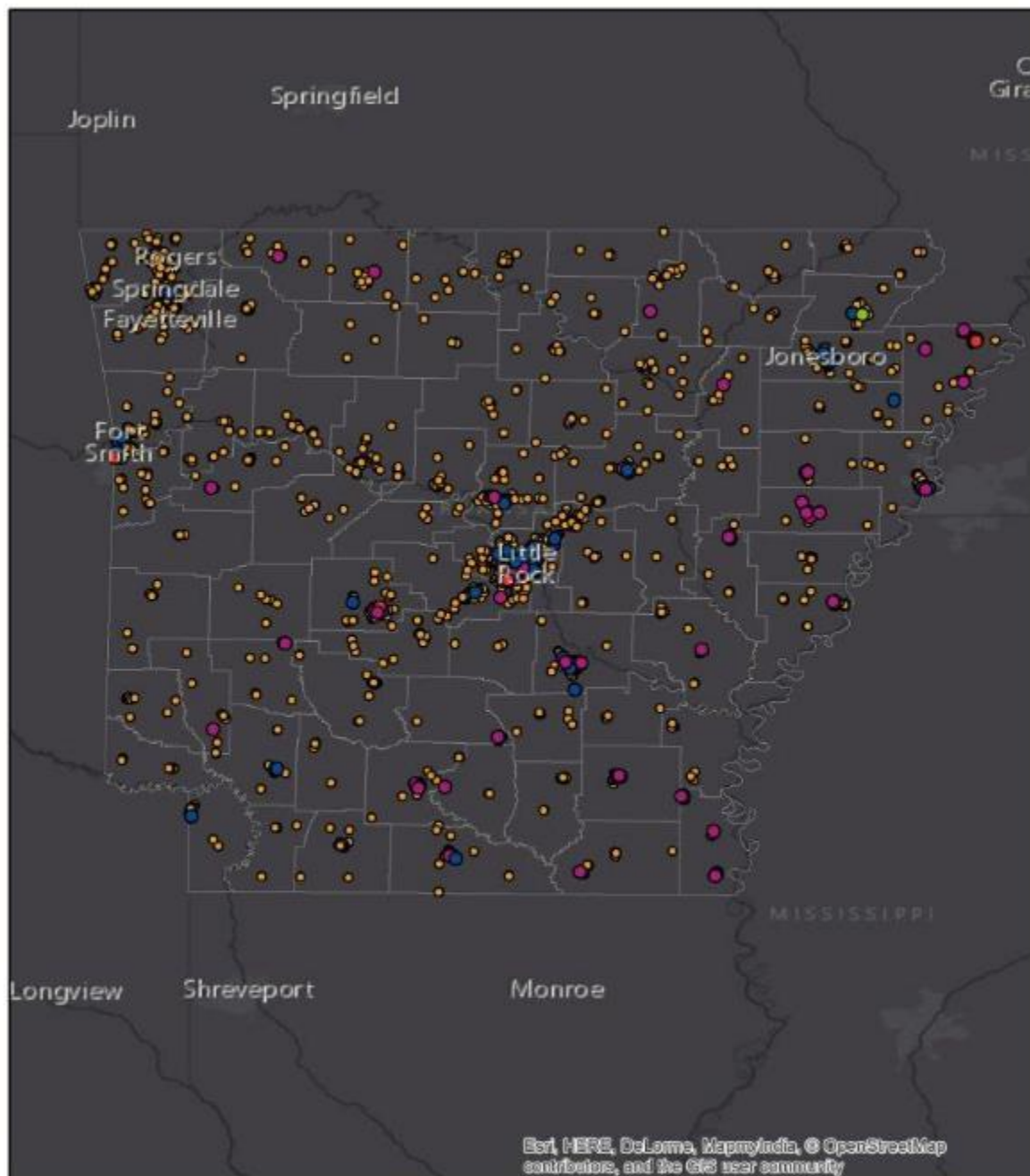
## Emergency Preparedness Action Alert

### Hurricane Matthew

Nearly 2 million people are under evacuation orders in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

This storm is dangerous. Category 4 winds of 145 mph are expected at landfall. Up to 15 inches of rain can be expected along with a storm surge of up to 8 feet along the coast.





## Child Care Providers Open After 7pm

Total Providers in Arkansas: 2,297  
Providers open after 7pm: 154

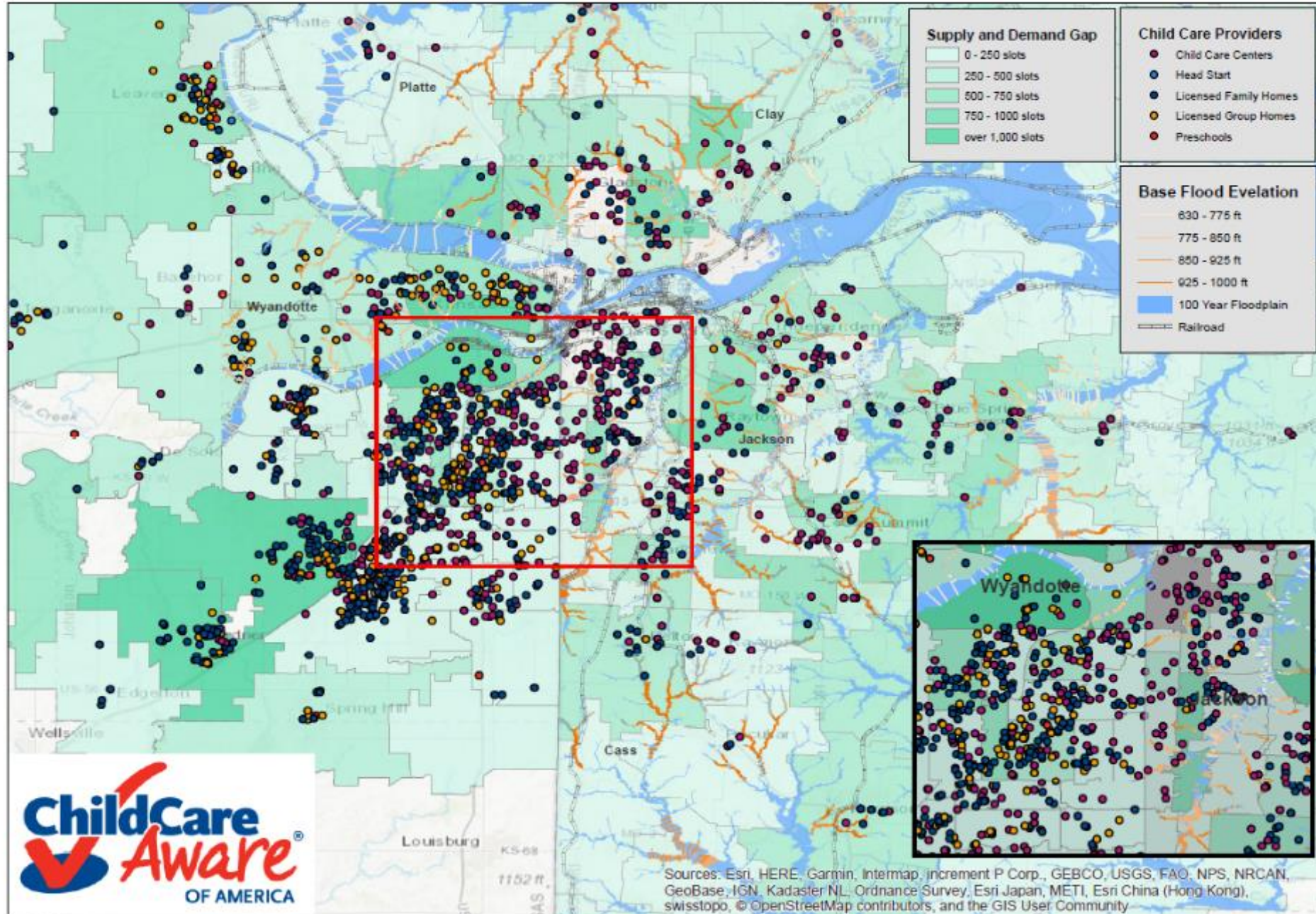
- Child Care Center: 87 providers
- Licensed Child Care Family Home: 58 providers
- Out of School Time: 2 providers
- Registered Child Care Family Home: 2 providers
- AR Providers closed after 7pm
- AR Counties





# Child Care Centers in the FEMA Floodplain & Supply and Demand Gap

## Kansas City, Kansas & Kansas City, Missouri



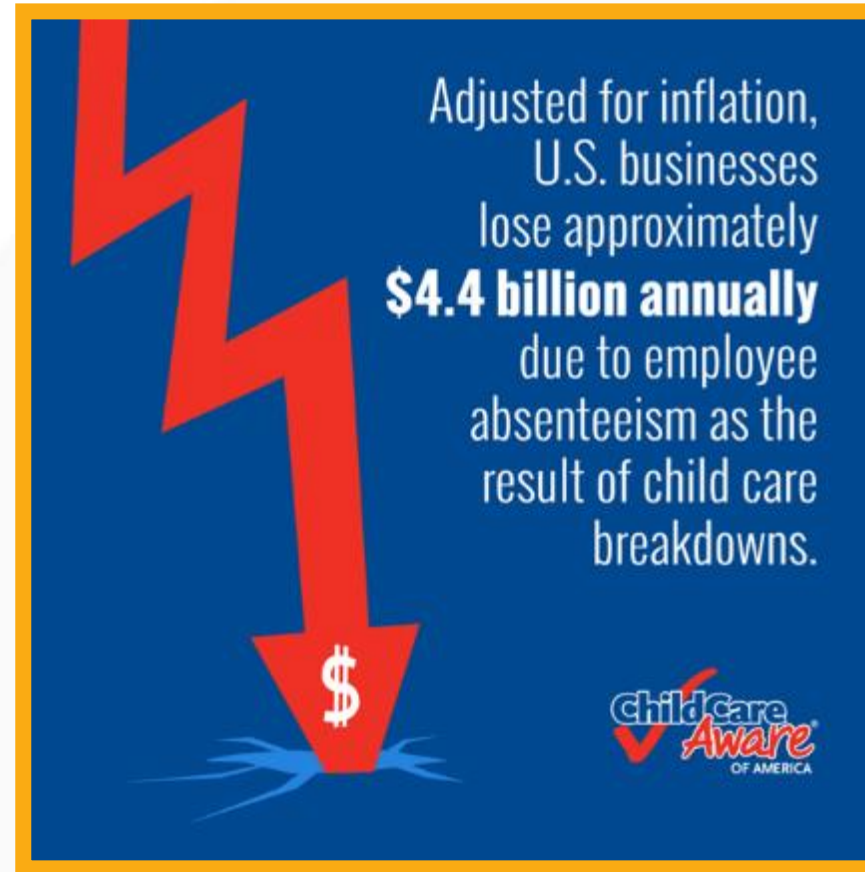




# Recovery and Resiliency

Prompt restoration of child care services allows first responders to return to work more quickly, without delaying to find a new source for child care.

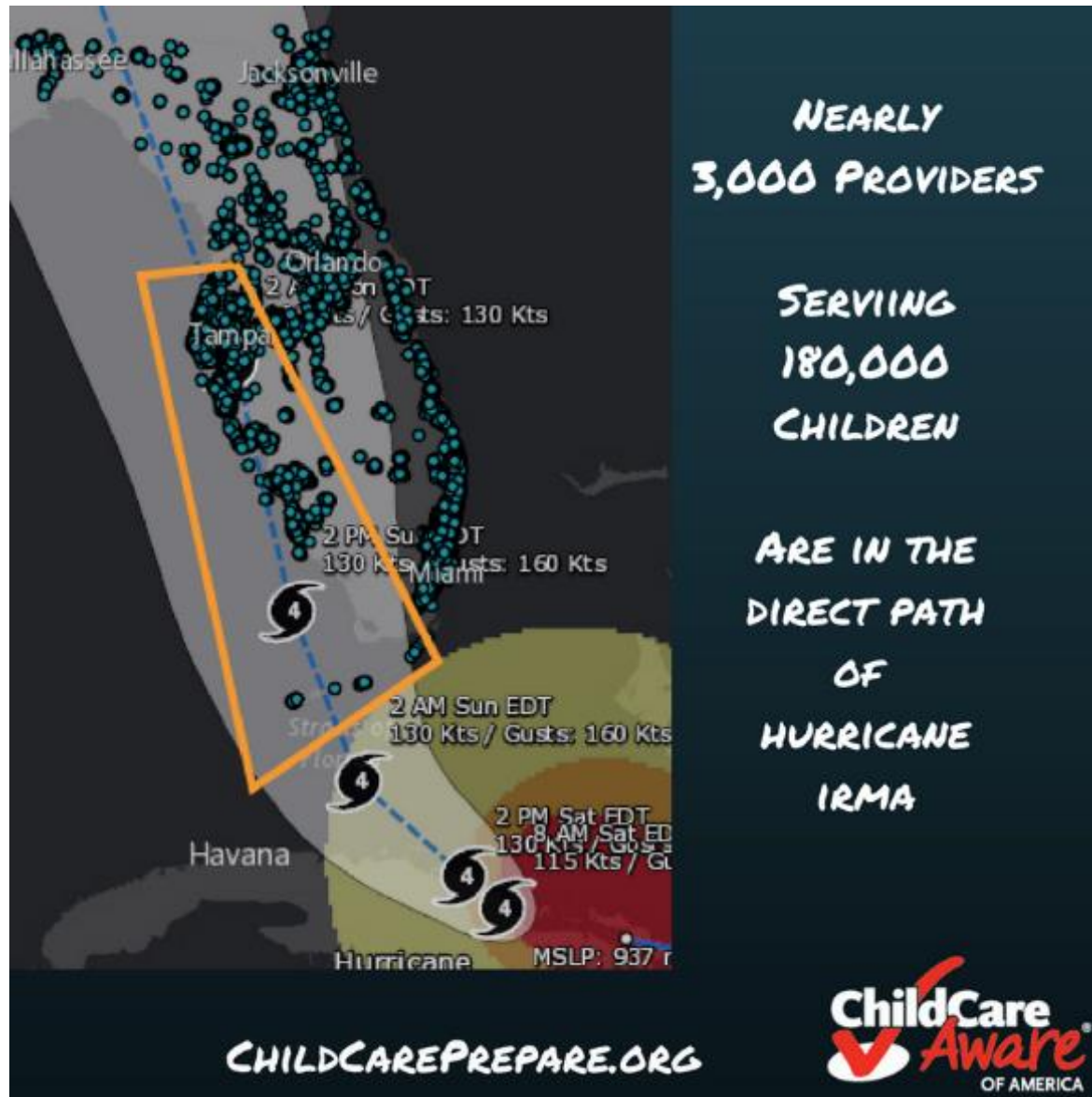
This further provides a benefit to children, as they can return to a normal schedule and become reunited with their peers, thus restoring stability and familiarity.



# Hurricane Irma

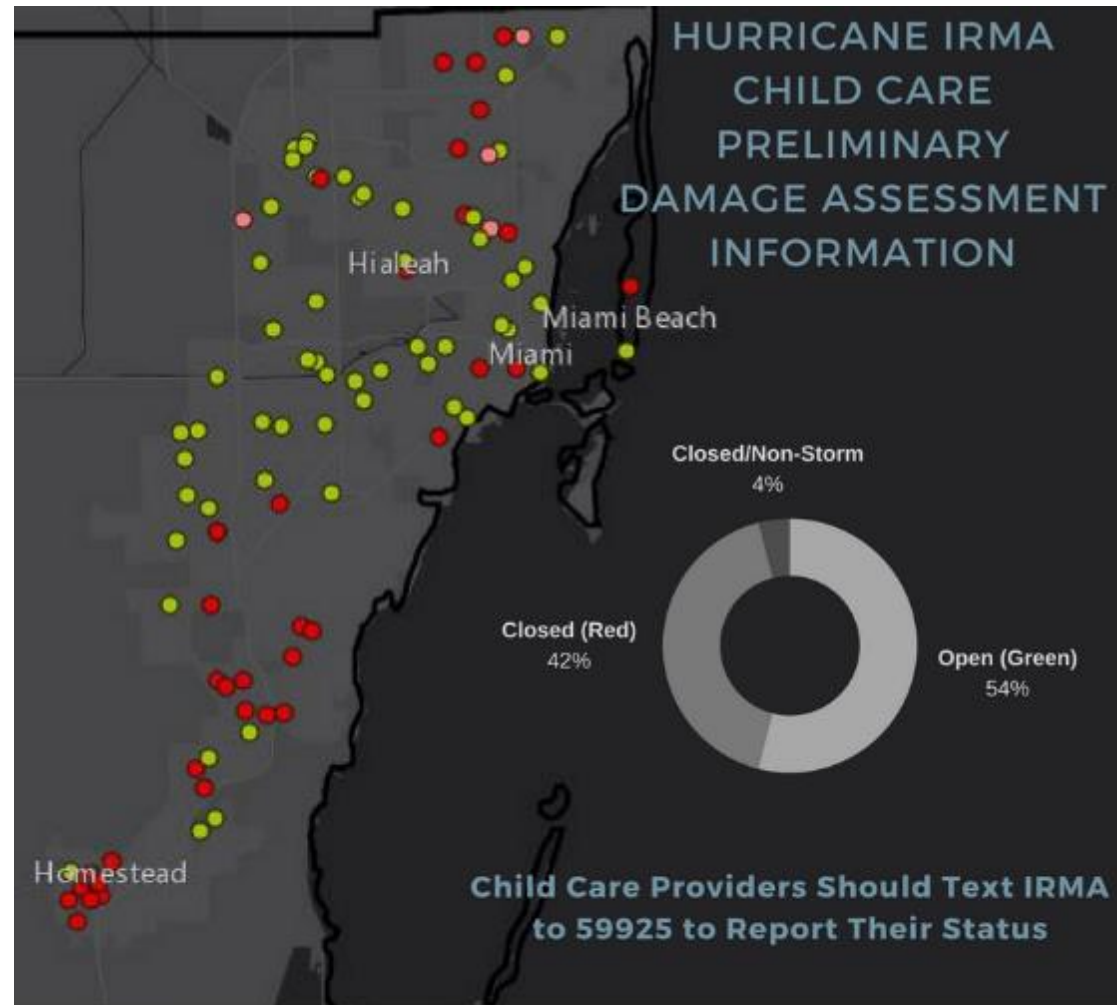


# Hurricane Irma





# Reporting Damages:



# HURRICANE IRMA

FLORIDA • 2017



**1,683**

Child care  
programs in  
Miami Dade  
and Monroe



**71**

Child care  
programs  
closed\*



**24,697**

Potential children served by  
those programs













# Quality - Special Considerations

## Integration of these efforts into existing QRIS efforts

- Integration into training for new child care providers
- On site observation and technical assistance
- Building stronger



# Is Your Child Care Program **Prepared** for Natural Disasters and **Emergencies**?

[www.ChildCarePrepare.org](http://www.ChildCarePrepare.org)



Look to Child Care Aware® of America for emergency preparedness, response and recovery resources!



A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a red shirt, holding a young girl with dark skin and braided hair. They are both smiling at each other. The background is a large, crowded indoor space, likely a shelter or temporary housing, with many people and beds visible. A large red prohibition symbol (a circle with a diagonal line) is overlaid on the image, centered over the text.

# Save the Children: US Emergencies



# Children at Risk in U.S.

## Emergencies

### Disasters Are Happening

- **More disasters** and **more types** of natural disasters happen in the U.S. each year than any other nation (*UNDRR*).
- Research shows that climate change is **increasing disaster risk** impacting the intensity and frequency of natural hazards (*FEMA, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*).

### Families Aren't Ready

- **67%** of parents say they are at least somewhat worried that their child will be affected by a disaster (*Save the Children*).
- **65%** of American families don't have adequate emergency plans and **41% of parents** report not knowing where their child's school would be evacuated to (*National Center for Disaster Preparedness, Columbia University*).

### As a Nation We're Underprepared to Protect Children

- **79%** of recommendations made by the National Commission on Children and Disasters remain unfulfilled 10 years after Katrina (*Save the Children*).
- Following Hurricane Katrina, there were **5,000 reports** of missing children and it took **7 months to reunite** the last child with her family (*National Commission on Children and Disasters*).

# Save the Children in US Emergencies



- Have responded to emergencies and humanitarian crises around the world for nearly 100 years
- Served more than 2 million children affected by U.S. disasters since Hurricane Katrina
- Led National Commission on Children and Disasters
- Offer full cycle of disaster services for children, families and caregivers.

# Save the Children in Emergencies

Supporting children throughout the disaster cycle



## Response.

- Child protection
- Child Friendly Spaces
- Distributions
- Emergency grants



## Recovery.

- Child Care Recovery
- Capacity Building & Training
- Psychosocial programs

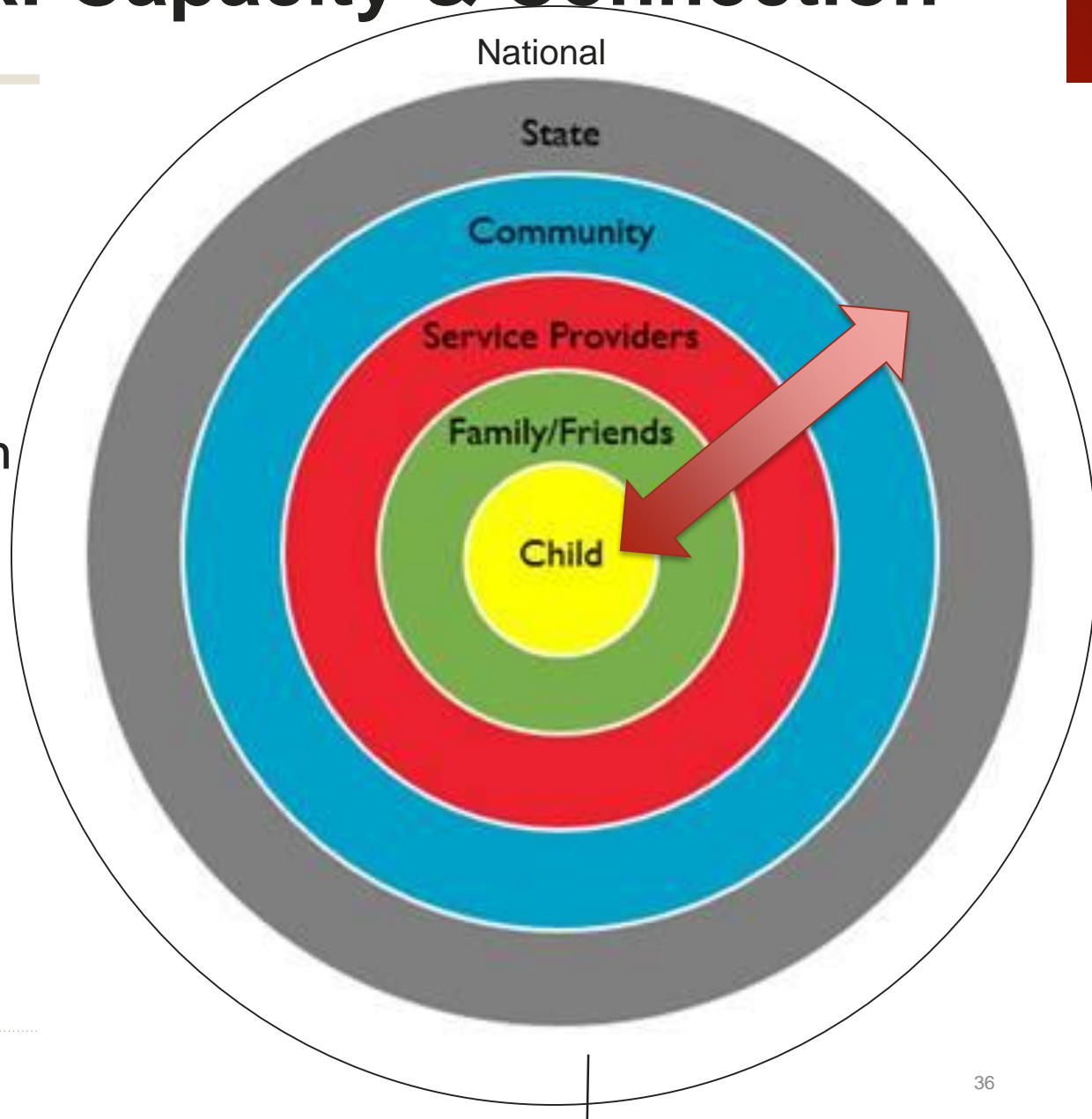


## Preparedness.

- Prep Rally
- Community Resilience Training

# How We Work: Capacity & Connection

Protecting children in emergencies requires awareness, capacity and connection within and between all levels of the community.





# 2017 Hurricanes: Harvey, Irma & Maria



# THANK YOU



**Save the Children**

# Partnerships Matter:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Childcare Aware® of America
- Save the Children





- Barriers?
- Lessons Learned?
- What will you do differently next time?





# CONTACT:

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[phollingsworth@elcmdm.org](mailto:phollingsworth@elcmdm.org)

[Byron.Mason@hhs.gov](mailto:Byron.Mason@hhs.gov)

[Andrew.Roszak@childcareaware.org](mailto:Andrew.Roszak@childcareaware.org)

[SThompson@savechildren.org](mailto:SThompson@savechildren.org)

