

## UASI Vulnerable Populations History

Since 2006, the Seattle Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) began supporting vulnerable populations planning in its region. Beginning with the 2007 grant cycle, money was distributed to the five UASI Jurisdictions (King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, cities of Seattle and Bellevue) to focus on the integration of vulnerable populations into all aspects of emergency management - prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery.

Each jurisdiction began to develop local capacity for vulnerable populations planning. Examples of this include yearly High Risk Population Disaster Planning Summits in Pierce County, the Vulnerable Populations Action Team (VPAT) in King County, an inclusive ESF 6 planning process in Seattle, and others.

Over time, and with the hard work of many collaborating agencies and organizations, visions and goals have formed for each of the jurisdictions on how to incorporate people with access and functional needs into emergency management. Since 2007, project deliverables have been derived by each individual jurisdiction, and have included projects such as case management, emergency training for social service agencies, technical assistance and training, public outreach plans, general shelter inclusion, communications, evacuation and others.

In 2013, after much foundational work had been accomplished throughout the jurisdictions, the time seemed right to bring the region together for an all-day conference. The Vulnerable Populations Disaster Planning Conference was the kick-off to a more integrated planning effort, the combined impact of which was felt throughout the region and through multiple emergency support functions.

Following the 2013 Conference, momentum for regional planning continued to grow and strengthen. Three separate Vulnerable Population Subcommittees were created to continue the conversations started by the conference. These committees were focused on the conference tracks - Transportation; Notification and Warning; and Social and Human Services Agency Preparedness.

The 2014 Get the Word Out: Emergency Messaging to Vulnerable Populations Workshop brought together a diverse group of community members for a more focused discussion on notification and warning.

2015 was about strengthening regional collaboration while increasing individual and collective UASI vulnerable populations planning and response capabilities, while identifying gaps in disaster planning, response and recovery.