



## EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION #8

### HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES ANNEX

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**PRIMARY AGENCY:** Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Public Health Service

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Department of Agriculture  
Department of Defense  
Department of Justice  
Department of Transportation  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Agency for International Development  
American Red Cross  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
General Services Administration  
National Communications System  
U.S. Postal Service

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Purpose

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) is to provide United States Government coordinated assistance to supplement State and local resources in response to public health and medical care needs following a significant natural disaster or man-made event. Assistance provided under ESF #8 - Health and Medical Services, is directed by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through its Executive Agent, the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), who heads the United States Public Health Service (PHS). Resources will be furnished when State and local resources are overwhelmed and medical and/or public health assistance is requested from the Federal Government.