Disaster Impact (DI) step by step

Parents may have difficulties participating in WorkFirst activities when they live or work in an area that has been impacted by a declared disaster. For example, they may need to focus on their family's home and safety, schools, daycares or other back up care may be unavailable, their WorkFirst activity sites may be closed or it may be difficult for them to travel from place to place within their community.

Use the eJAS tracking component DI to track impacted families when an area has been declared a disaster. **This is an indicator code only**.

Once an area has been declared a disaster:

1. The parent notifies DSHS when he or she is impacted by the disaster.
2. The WorkFirst Program Specialist or Social Worker:
    a. Determines whether we need to temporarily reduce the parent's participation requirements due to factors such as:
        i. The parent's need to focus on their family's health and safety,
        ii. The parent's normal WorkFirst activity/site is closed,
        iii. There is no available childcare or backup care,
        iv. The parent is unable to travel to his/her activity(s) or childcare.
    b. Opens the DI tracking component for 30 days when a declared disaster is impairing the parent's ability to participate. There is no IRP template for this component as it is an indicator only.
    c. Adjusts the parent's IRP as necessary to reflect the activities in which the parent is able to participate.
    d. Creates a note in eJAS under "ongoing participation" documenting how the disaster is impacting the family and any resulting, reduced participation requirements.

EXAMPLE 1: A parent calls to report that his neighborhood is flooded, roads are impassable and his family is staying in a temporary shelter because their house is under water. He is unable to get to job search because the roads, most businesses and his local ESD office are closed due to the flooding. The WFPS will determine whether the parent can get to another ESD office to continue job search activities. If not, the WFPS will close out the JS component, open an XH component for the parent to resolve his housing situation and create a new IRP. The WFPS will document all actions taken in eJAS under "ongoing participation". A disaster is declared later that day, so the WFPS adds a DI tracking component to indicate that the IRP changes are due to a declared disaster.

EXAMPLE 2: A parent calls to report she is impacted by a major mudslide in her area and a disaster has been declared. She says her family is safe, her home is not damaged, enough roads remain open for her to get around and her WorkFirst activity site has remained open. She states that her childcare is closed, but her aunt can watch her children for now. This parent will remain in her current WorkFirst activity and no IRP adjustments or a DI eJAS tracking indicator are required.