

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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Scott P. Lewis
The Eagles Wings Foundation, Inc.
375 Possum Pass
West Palm Beach, Florida 33413

December 21, 2009

Dear Mr. Lewis,

On behalf of Missouri's Governor's Faith-Based and Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery (The Partnership) and our Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), we want to confirm that our State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has filed with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to sponsor the new Pathfinders' Task Force courses. With Pathfinders' history of working with Citizen Corps volunteers and its primary focus on searching out and working to resolve the unmet needs of vulnerable populations following a disaster, the Partnership is committed to this program which is both replicable and sustainable, with the establishment of local, trained, Pathfinder teams. With Pathfinders' Hurricane Ike tested cell phones which worked with no cell towers, the Partnership likewise is looking forward to learning more about the efficiency, documentation, and automation introduced with this simple, yet cutting edge, technology as part of the training.

SEMA now is scheduling the "three for free" courses. With The Partnership, SEMA, the SILC, and The Eagles Wings' focus on this gap in emergency services to our most vulnerable citizens, including persons with disabilities, our agencies will be able to look to this program as a pilot for the rest of the nation. Adding in that Eagles Wings' Board is comprised of multi-faith backgrounds from the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths, this program likewise truly helps fulfill The Governor of Missouri's commitment to engage a very broad, faith based community into disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. With the courses' focus on local, spontaneous survivor/volunteers, the special needs communities, the incorporation of faith based initiatives, and the new technology, this unique combination offers an exciting way to encompass all phases of emergency management.

We are looking forward to the first three courses and the hope that the DHS review process can be accelerated in such a way as to allow this course to be certified so that we can host more offerings here in Missouri.

Respectfully,

Pat Chambers, Co-Chair
& Executive Director,
Heartland Independent Living Center

Matt Nutt, Co-Chair
& Citizen Corps Coordinator,
State Emergency Management Agency



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