

Pennsylvania's "Voluntary" CISM Network

A. Background

The purpose of this document is to formalize team selection criteria for CISM teams deployed for a PA statewide emergency or for assistance nationally through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) or the ICISF network.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) is identified in the Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster (VOAD) directory as the primary contact and point of coordination for all statewide CISM deployments involving police, fire and EMS within the Commonwealth. The PA VOAD is managed and continuously updated by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). In addition, PEHSC is under contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to serve as the coordinator for state response of CISM teams as directed by the Department.

As part of our contract responsibilities, we are formalizing the CISM team selection process for statewide deployments and assistance nationally. This program is not designed to change PA CISM teams' current policies and procedures at the local level, but rather to identify criteria to be recognized as a member of PA's Voluntary CISM Network and participate in state and national team deployments.

B. PA's Voluntary CISM Network Participation Requirements

1. PA CISM Network teams *must be registered* with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). (To simplify this process, PEHSC has adopted ICISF's registration process.)
2. PA Voluntary CISM Network teams will agree to be deployed both in-state and out-of-state.
3. Teams must agree to follow standard operating guidelines in accordance with the current practices of the ICISF.
4. Teams must agree to update and keep current their contact information with the PA CISM Network, annually.
5. Teams must collect data to include number of responses, how many team members deployed, response type and location of deployment. *Confidentiality is paramount and the data collected should not reflect names, addresses or referrals of any individuals or departments involved with CISM services.*

C. ICISF's Requirements Adopted by the PA CISM Network

This criterion is based on the ICISF criteria for team registration. It is not meant to be exclusionary or to deter teams from becoming part of the Pennsylvania CISM Network; rather, it is meant to set a standard held by the Foundation for a level of care provided by all CISM Teams.

The standards are based on the current standards established by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Team Training Qualifications

The Team coordinator and the clinical director must confirm in a signed statement that all team members (including mental health professionals, clergy personnel and peer support personnel) have completed a minimum of a Basic Group CISM training course, Individual Crisis Intervention & Peer Support which fulfills the criteria established by ICISF. In addition all team members, as defined above, must have completed ICS 100 and ICS 700. All CISM Supervisors must have completed ICS 100, ICS 200, and ICS 700.

Registration Period

Team registration for the PA CISM Network is for a period of one year. Teams must maintain the "Registered Team" requirements through ICISF. Each year team leadership needs to send the "Team Information Form" to ICISF and to the PEHSC staff liaison.