

Bringing Innovative Risk Communication Approaches to Tribal Nations to Improve Emergency Preparedness

The [National Center for Disaster Preparedness \(NCDP\)](#) will develop interactive, Tribal-led workshops to strengthen disaster preparedness and response across Tribal Nations. These workshops will be designed and taught by Tribal members and will combine applied game design with communication software built on [Twilio-based platforms](#). By bringing together Tribal stakeholders across multiple sectors, the workshops will foster a collaborative and innovative approach to disaster preparedness grounded in Tribal priorities and community knowledge.

The Project

Tribal Nations experience disproportionate impacts from disasters such as wildfires, flooding, and severe storms. Yet conventional disaster preparedness systems often overlook Tribal needs and priorities, limiting the ability to deliver culturally relevant and effective risk communications. Existing emergency communication tools frequently lack key features, such as two-way messaging and multilingual support, that are critical for serving Tribal communities.

To address these gaps, NCDP is working directly with Tribal leaders, emergency managers, and community organizations to co-design and implement new communication systems built on Twilio-based platforms. Through interactive game design workshops, NCDP will facilitate dialogue among diverse Tribal stakeholders to strengthen community-wide disaster preparedness.

These workshops will be created and delivered by Tribal members and will leverage innovative technologies to support community-based approaches to preparedness. Using game-based methodologies, the workshops will provide a flexible and supportive environment for addressing complex and often difficult topics, while fostering collaboration, relationship-building, and resilience, ensuring Tribal Nations are better prepared before, during, and after a disaster.

Project Goals and Impact

1. Creation of text messaging that introduces effective, safe, and inexpensive technological communication solutions for Tribal Nations during disasters.
2. Development and facilitation of game-based interactive workshops for Tribal Nations across the United States, which effectively create a collaborative atmosphere and educate various stakeholders about Tribal risk communication strategies
3. Evaluation of project effectiveness through learner qualitative and quantitative feedback.

For More Information

Please contact us at ncdptraining@columbia.edu for more information.

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