

Goal 9

Strengthen Emergency Preparedness for Infant & Young Child Feeding



9

Emergency Preparedness for Infant & Young Child Feeding

Goal 9: Advocate for the integration of Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) into Durham County's emergency preparedness and response systems to ensure safe, equitable, and effective infant feeding support during disasters.

Enhancing Emergency Readiness for Infant Feeding

Objective 9.1: Integrate IYCF-E into County Emergency Preparedness Policies and Plans

Implementation Strategies:

- 9.1.1 Advocate for the inclusion of breastfeeding protection and safe formula-feeding guidance within all Durham City/County emergency operations plans.
- 9.1.2 Ensure emergency shelters and evacuation centers establish breastfeeding-friendly spaces, safe milk-handling protocols, and access to skilled lactation support.
- 9.1.3 Promote the incorporation of ongoing IYCF-E training for emergency responders, shelter staff, volunteers, and NGOs, including the use of a Rapid Needs Assessment Intake for IYCF-E.

Improving Safe Infant Feeding Support During Disasters

Objective 9.2: Enhance Countywide Systems for Safe Breastfeeding and Formula Feeding in Emergencies

Implementation Strategies:

- 9.2.1 Along with prioritizing breastfeeding, prioritizing the procurement and distribution of ready to feed infant formula to minimize contamination risks when water or power is unavailable.
- 9.2.2 Establish guidelines for safe cleaning and sanitizing of infant feeding equipment, including options for families without access to potable water.
- 9.2.3 Implement policies to prevent unsolicited formula donations and ensure appropriate, responsible distribution through standard emergency response channels.

Building Community Capacity and Partnerships

Objective 9.3: Expand Collaboration Across Emergency Response, Public Health, and Community Partners

Implementation Strategies:

- 9.3.1 Strengthen partnerships with Durham County Emergency Management, FEMA, healthcare systems, food banks, shelters, and community organizations to coordinate infant feeding support during crises.
- 9.3.2 Include Breastfeed Durham representatives on emergency preparedness committees to ensure consistent integration of IYCF-E best practices.
- 9.3.3 Develop and distribute multilingual education for families on emergency-ready breastfeeding, formula feeding, and home emergency kit preparation.