

# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

ALAWON

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### ***Make Sure You and Your Community Are Prepared!***

September is [National Preparedness Month](#), a nationwide effort to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

The ALA Washington Office urges libraries -- as community leaders -- to take charge in making sure their communities are prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster. The latest surveys show that 83% of Americans are unprepared to help themselves in a disaster, while the National Heritage Health Index discovered that 70% of libraries did not have a disaster plan.

Please use this time to prepare your institution for the types of disasters which might befall you and help your communities prepare as well.

In the spirit of National Preparedness Month, the ALA Washington Office has put together a list of resources at its [Disaster Preparedness webpage](#) to help you make sure you're prepared, including:

- [dPlan: The Online Disaster Planning Tool](#): dPlan is a *free* online tool that will help you simplify the process of writing a disaster plan. Enter information about your institution using the comprehensive fill-in-the-blank template. This template will guide you through the steps necessary for effective disaster planning.

Once completed, dPlan generates a printed disaster plan specific to your institution. The resulting plan contains contact information for staff and key personnel, preventive maintenance checklists, salvage techniques, and much more. dPlan can be updated continuously to reflect the changes that occur at your institution.

- [The Disaster Mitigation Planning Assistance Website](#): The site allows you to view disaster plans submitted by other libraries and archives as a model for developing your own plan. Resources are available in a database that can be searched geographically, by service, expert or supply. You can download your results into an Excel file to include in your own disaster plan. You are also invited to add resources to the database.

#### **Other News:**

["Grow Your Own @ Your Library" institutional scholarship application available online](#)

[ALA divisions, round table support presidential Emerging Leaders initiative](#)

[George Lopez urges families to get library cards](#)

ALAWON Editor:  
Andy Bridges

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**ALA Washington Office**  
Emily Sheketoff; Executive Director  
1615 New Hampshire Ave NW, First Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
202.628.8410 (V)  
202.628.8419 (F)

**Office of Government Relations**  
Lynne Bradley, Director;  
Melanie Anderson, Don Essex, Erin Haggerty, and Miriam Nisbet

**Office for Information**

Please visit the ALA Washington Office's [Disaster Preparedness webpage](#) for more information and be sure to visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

**Technology Policy**  
Rick Weingarten, Director;  
Carrie Lowe, Kathy Mitchell,  
Carrie Russell



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