

Screening for Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable Person: “A person who cannot comfortably or safely access and use the standard resources offered in disaster preparedness, relief and recovery.”*

Sensory Impairment

Is the person blind or deaf?	YES	NO
Is the person sufficiently vision or hearing impaired that they may have difficulty understanding public messages provided by the media or by an emergency response official?	YES	NO
Is the person sufficient vision impaired that they have difficulty navigating without assistance?	YES	NO

Mobility Impairment

Is the person largely or entirely bed bound?	YES	NO
Does the person require a wheelchair or walker some or all the time?	YES	NO
Is the person prone to falling, have slow walking speed, have difficulty climbing even one or two steps or have difficulty walking as far as a city block?	YES	NO

Cognitive Impairment

Does the person have memory impairment to the extent that they have trouble remembering guidance or instructions?	YES	NO
Is the person confused or disoriented?	YES	NO
Is the person’s judgment or comprehension impaired to the extent that they cannot understand and follow relatively simple instructions, adequately judge their situational risk or take actions to ensure their own safety?	YES	NO

Language Impairment

Does the person have limited English language comprehension such that they may have difficulty understanding public messages provided by the media or by an emergency response official?	YES	NO
Is the person unable to read English with some proficiency?	YES	NO

Medical Impairment

Does the person have an medical condition requiring frequent assistance such as that provided by a visiting nurse or in-home caregiver?	YES	NO
Is the person chemically dependent?	YES	NO
Is the person on any medication that if they were unable to take it for one or two days, their health would be threatened?	YES	NO
Is the person on dialysis?	YES	NO
Is the person dependent on electricity to operate medical equipment such as a ventilator or oxygen concentrator?	YES	NO
Is the person dependent long term on access to medical supplies such as ostomy bags or tube feedings?	YES	NO

Isolation and Resource Impairment

Is the person physically isolated requiring door to door communication or transportation assistance?	YES	NO
Is the person culturally isolated such that their beliefs or culture may pose barriers to their responding to a disaster or accepting the assistance of disaster responders?	YES	NO
Is the person homeless or have resource impairment such that they may not be able to meet their own needs?	YES	NO

*Quoted in: CDC; Identifying Vulnerable Older Adults and Legal Options for Increasing Their Protection During All-Hazards Emergencies, 2012.