

Local/County Community Emergency Response Program Approval

A Local or County Community Emergency Response Program (CERT) in West Virginia must meet the following purpose, definition, and documentation requirements before it can be approved on www.citizencorps.gov and recognized as an official program.

Purpose

The purpose of a CERT program is to educate people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and train them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

Definition of a CERT Program

An official CERT Program must:

- Be operated by a local emergency response organization such as your local Fire Department or Office of Emergency Management and endorsed by the local Citizen Corps Council if your community has one.
- Conduct the CERT Basic Training Course at least once a year
- Participate in a multi-agency exercise or conduct a CERT exercise at least once a year
- Have a point of contact to be posted with other program information on the national CERT website

Documentation

The CERT Program must:

- Submit an email statement of endorsement from the agency sponsor (Fire, EMA) to the State Citizen Corps Coordinator
- Submit an email statement of endorsement from the jurisdiction Citizen Corps Council if it exists to the State Citizen Corps Coordinator
- Register and provide all requested information for CERT Programs at www.citizencorps.gov
- Sign and submit a Memorandum of Agreement with Volunteer West Virginia annually