

Operations (Optional)

Coalitions may endeavor to meet a need, such as significant numbers of home repairs, that requires a centralized operation to meet it. We call this an “optional function” as it may never be necessary and may come and go. In the operational stage, the leadership team continues to fulfill the essential functions.

Centralization

Centralized operations provide a solution when the scope of the need is too large and complex for decentralized collaborative efforts to meet it. For example, some churches may adopt a family needing home repair and have the resources and volunteers to complete it. When the number of home repairs is large enough, it may be necessary to develop a centralized “construction operation” in which churches and their volunteers can participate without having to manage the operation.

Initiation

Ideally, a workgroup is formed around the specific need that requires some type of centralized operation. A workgroup can collaboratively consider the need and potential solutions and then work with the leadership team to discern how to address it.

Leadership/Staffing

A centralized operation will typically require some staffing, whether paid or volunteer. For example, centralized home repair operations may include a construction supervisor, volunteer coordinator, and site supervisor. If the coalition is part of The Church Responds 501c3, we work with the leadership team to hire staff and provide human resources support.

Church Participation

While it may be necessary to centralize operations and hire staff to effectively meet a particular need, the purpose is not to decrease but to increase the participation of churches and their volunteers. The Church Responds and the leadership team ensure that a centralized operation serves to mobilize as many churches as possible to love their neighbors in need.