The purpose of the PREPARE program is to prepare senior living (SL) and long-term care (LTC) health providers with the core competencies to respond to disasters and other public health emergencies.

Key Program Objectives:
1) Increase the understanding of licensed SL/LTC health professionals (physicians, nurses, SL/LTC administrators, mental health/social workers, allied health professionals) towards disaster/emergency preparedness education.
2) Strengthen and reinforce the SL/LTC workforce’s understanding of the unique challenges of emergency situations in SL/LTC residences, and of the resources available to address these challenges.
3) Increase the number of SL/LTC professionals who understand how to alert the public health system of a public health emergency.
4) Increase the number of SL/LTC residences that: forge collaborative relationships with key community stakeholders and groups in disaster planning; implement disaster response exercises or drills as part of their continuing quality improvement programs; and involve residents and families in emergency planning and education.

A “blended learning” approach provides the overall framework for delivery of PREPARE courses and content.
- Blended learning enables educators to deliver content in a variety of methods including traditional classroom instruction, independent study and video.
- This approach is valuable to SL/LTC residences, as many face staffing shortages and thus cannot dedicate long, continuous periods of time for multidisciplinary training. Offering a variety of methods enhances interest and motivation to learn as interactive experiences (e.g. simulations, case studies, role playing) easily lend themselves to disaster/emergency training.

Number of Providers Trained: Since March 2006, Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging has provided training for multiple disciplines of SL/LTC staff within 2000+ organizations in all 50 states.

Description of the PREPARE Program
PREPARE is an acronym corresponding to the following program elements:
- Prepare the SL/LTC workforce with knowledge and competencies to deal with disasters and public health emergencies
- Readiness, recognition, and multidisciplinary response to disaster events
- Educate Core Trainers
- Produce an effective SL/LTC workforce able to treat elders in such emergencies
- Alert the public health system of bioterrorism or other public health emergencies
- Resources for continuing disaster preparedness education, and
- Evaluating the program’s impact

1-day Train-the-Trainer Program $395/participant
A hands-on approach by training SL/LTC staff on disaster preparedness and giving them the tools to train staff at their organizations. Participants leave the training with the PREPARE Learning Modules Training Guide, Self-Study Guide, CD-ROM of resources, CD-ROM containing Spanish translation of the Self-Study Guide, customizable Disaster Plan Template, and Incident Command Cards.

Continuing Education Units: 7.25 hours for Nursing Home Administrators, Social Workers (Illinois only), and 6.75 hours for RNs.

Awards:
2009 Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation
2007 American Society on Aging (ASA) Award for Innovation and Quality in Healthcare

To learn more about the content of the training sessions or for information please contact Louise Lyons at (847) 492-7433 or LLyons@matherlifeways.com