



# MUTUAL AID / ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES CAUCUS (IAEM-UCC)

The mission of the Universities & Colleges Caucus (UCC) is to represent the emergency management issues surrounding college and university campuses. The purpose of this caucus is to provide emergency managers from higher education institutions a voice on a national and international scale to ensure their needs are also being addressed by government and industry officials.

## MUTUAL AID

In 2014, IAEM UCC conducted a survey of public and private institutes of higher education across the United States. Over half (52%) of the respondents acknowledged their institution has participated in receiving or providing intercollegiate or other mutual aid in the past. Furthermore, 81% stated their organization currently participates in some form of a mutual aid agreement. These results demonstrate that colleges and universities are an integral part of their communities and cannot “go it alone” when critical incidents occur. External assistance is an important element of the safety, security, recovery and restoration on college campuses across the country.

Similar to other mutual aid agreements, the **National Intercollegiate Mutual Aid Agreement (NIMAA)** is a source for providing and/or receiving assistance. Participating in multiple agreements provides institutes of higher education with flexibility when evaluating the most effective and efficient means of obtaining resources during an emergency.

Unlike typical government mutual aid agreements, NIMAA membership can include both public and private institutions. The NIMAA is a mutual aid agreement that is complementary to other mutual aid agreements / programs, and works in cooperation with other plans. By adopting the NIMAA approach to mutual aid and assistance, colleges and universities are able to sign a single agreement covering issues such as indemnification, workers’ compensation, and reimbursement. The agreement allows institutes of higher education to share equipment, personnel and other resources. Institutions participating in the NIMAA may be eligible for FEMA assistance / reimbursement and are not precluded from participation in, nor does NIMAA supersede, other mutual aid agreements / programs.

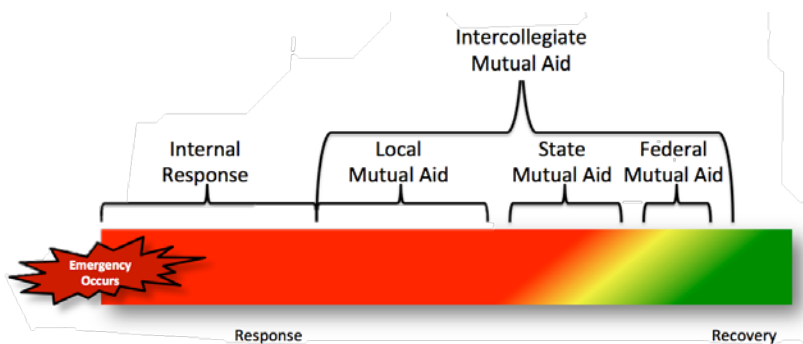
## EMERGENCY TIMELINE AND MUTUAL AID

During an emergency, an institute of higher education must determine what resources it needs and evaluate the options available to obtain those resources. This may include multiple mutual aid or assistance mechanisms:

**Local Agreements:** May be developed with any local agency, organization, municipality, etc. that can provide necessary resources during an emergency.

**Statewide Assistance:** Public agency resources may be managed by existing mutual aid agreements and may be activated to assist during critical incidents.

**Federal Assistance:** Federal resources may be made available under strict guidelines and circumstances.



**Intercollegiate Assistance:** Not bound by local or state borders or public / private status, intercollegiate resources may be made available to members of NIMAA. By activating the NIMAA, members can access a large and diverse pool of resources and knowledge with specialized experience in a higher education setting.

## GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

The NIMAA provides for mutual cooperation among participating institutions in conducting disaster related exercises, testing or other training activities in addition to actual emergency periods. The agreement defines financial obligations of the requesting institution as well as those that provide assistance. Insurance coverage and liability protection are key elements addressed in the NIMAA.

## INTEGRATED RESPONSE EFFORTS

Depending on the complexity of an emergency, response actions may consist of accessing multiple mutual aid and assistance agreements concurrently. NIMAA is designed to supplement, not replace, traditional mutual aid agreements. It is a resource to be activated when specialized knowledge and/or resources may not otherwise be available and could assist in the response and recovery stages of an incident.

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT NIMAA

FALSE	TRUE
NIMAA membership precludes participation in other mutual aid and assistance agreements, or using resources from contractors or associations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIMAA supports mutual aid and assistance networks of all kinds. NIMAA is not the only option.</li> <li>• NIMAA encourages member organizations to access local agreements and statewide programs, and does not attempt to replace them.</li> <li>• NIMAA member organizations can participate in other mutual aid and assistance agreements.</li> </ul>
NIMAA obligates members to send resources if they are requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No member is obligated to send resources if they decide not to for any reason.</li> </ul>
NIMAA membership is expensive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no membership or retainer fee for members of NIMAA.</li> <li>• All member organizations volunteer time to develop and maintain their NIMAA.</li> </ul>
Submitting the NIMAA agreement through legal review is cost prohibitive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NIMAA agreement has been developed using models and best practices in mutual aid. Many of these examples have been extensively developed and reviewed by legal experts. Additional legal review may not be required, but check with your own legal counsel for your institution.</li> </ul>

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information is available through the International Association of Emergency Managers Universities & Colleges Caucus (IAEM-UCC). To learn more, please visit the IAEM-UCC website: <http://tinyurl.com/iaem-ucc>

