



## **PREP KIDS**

**University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center  
College of Public Health**

**Principal Investigator:** Marizen Ramirez Assistant Professor

### **Purpose of the Research**

The University of Iowa's Injury Prevention Research Center and the Center for Developmental Disabilities will be conducting a three year pilot study to develop a new program which helps rural families of children with sensory or physical impairments prepare for disasters. The research project is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### **Study Procedures**

Participants are being recruited statewide through the Child Health Specialty Clinics. 100 families will be randomly invited to participate in the training and 100 participants will serve as research controls (not receiving the training and materials).

Parents of children with sensory and physical disabilities living in rural areas will receive training about the seven steps needed to prepare for a disaster. All participants will receive a tool kit to help them complete the seven steps. Trainings will be held in 5-6 regional locations throughout the state during the summer of 2012 and the spring of 2013. Training participants and "control" non-participants will be surveyed before the training and at 6 and 12 months intervals after the training to evaluate outcomes:

- Changes in perception of risk
- Changes in preparedness attitudes
- Changes in preparedness activities completed
- Changes in confidence to deal with disaster
- Changes in perceptions about community resiliency

Control families will be provided all project materials after the research is completed.