This letter authorizes the task force member listed below to serve as a **Peer Support Provider (PSP)** within the National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Task Force Member Name: |  |
| Advisory Organization Group or Position: |  |
| Task Force: |  |
| Sponsoring Agency: |  |
| Participating Agency:  (If applicable) |  |

The ongoing improvement of the National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) requires a support system driven by the expertise and commitment of individuals from local, state, and federal levels. The System recognizes that **behavioral health and peer support** are critical to sustaining the performance, safety, and resilience of its personnel.

Peer Support Providers augment the System by providing confidential peer-to-peer assistance and supporting the behavioral health needs of deployed IST and Task Force members. PSPs integrate into the Incident Support Team (IST) structure as a **rostered position**, with the same expectations and commitments as other IST members.

An individual who is rostered as a PSP on an IST agrees to a significant commitment individually and on behalf of their Task Force, Sponsoring Agency, and/or Participating Agency. Rostered PSPs are required to be on call four times a year (for a minimum of one month at a time), with the possibility of additional requests during responses that occur outside the on-call month. Applicants will be placed either on one of the three standing IST rosters (Red, White, or Blue), or on the IST Alternate List. The US&R Branch uses the Alternate List to fill any openings on an IST roster during both the monthly on-call and response rostering processes.

With an appointment to a PSP IST position, the member understands that this assignment takes precedence over other Task Force and emergency assignments outside regular agency duties, unless an incident occurs in the PSP member's jurisdiction. By signing this Letter of Support, the Task Force Representative (TFR) and Sponsoring Agency Chief and/or Participating Agency Chief agree to allow the PSP to respond to an activation and to follow the reimbursement procedures established in 44 CFR 208. Additionally, the Sponsoring Agency agrees to fund, through its Readiness Cooperative Agreement (as funding permits), its members’ attendance at PSP/IST training and annual exercises.

This letter authorizes **(name of member)** to participate in the FEMA US&R Incident Support Team as a Peer Support Provider. This endorsement is valid from this date through the end of the member’s term of appointment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Task Force Representative: |  |  |
| Print and Sign | Date |
| Sponsoring Agency Chief: |  |  |
| Print and Sign | Date |
| Participating Agency Chief:  (If applicable) |  |  |
| Print and Sign | Date |