
FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INNOVATION Selected to Lead Regional Efforts to Enhance Ongoing Disaster-Related Health Recovery through Training and Technical Assistance

Hurricane Response Hub to Provide Training and Technical Assistance to Health Departments, Emergency Management, and Community-Based Organizations in Florida

MIAMI, Florida– The Florida Institute for Health Innovation has been chosen to serve as one of five regional technical assistance centers for the Hurricane Response Hub (HRH) initiative led by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI). Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this national program is designed to enhance disaster-related surveillance and environmental and occupational health recovery efforts in areas impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria by building disaster-related public health workforce capacity.

Working with a range of state and regional partners, the Florida Institute for Health Innovation will serve as the coordinating body within Florida, to lead public health workforce capacity building activities in disaster-related surveillance, environmental, and occupational health needs.

"We have seen in recent years that the resilience of communities is closely related to the emergency response following hurricanes and the preparedness of our public health workforce," said Roderick K. King, MD, MPH, Assistant Dean of Public Health Education at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and CEO of the Florida Institute for Health Innovation. "Strengthening and building the capacity of this workforce means, in response to future disasters, we act quickly, efficiently and collectively. Our communities are able to recover with support and are stronger as a result. This initiative represents a significant step toward improving the resilience of Florida's disaster-preparedness and emergency response workforce."

The 2017 hurricane season was considered "extremely active" with 17 named storms, 10 hurricanes, and six major hurricanes, causing more than \$200 billion in damage nationwide. Recovery efforts from Hurricane's Irma and Michael are ongoing, and many organizations still need assistance to ensure disaster-related environmental and occupational health best practices are applied to their work.

"Our collective success will be achieved when we co-create a stronger and integrated muscle that builds the practical skills of the workforce capable of creating more resilient communities," said Vincent Lafronza, president and CEO of NNPHI. "I congratulate the Florida Institute for Health Innovation for its winning application to join NNPHI and CDC on this capacity building journey."

The training and resources developed through this initiative will help health departments, public health institutes, emergency management, law enforcement, health care providers, government entities, and other organizations build workforce capacity and institutional knowledge that improves disaster-related recovery in the future.

"The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade looks forward to participating in this collaborative effort of partners and organizations. This project will only further strengthen and build the capacity of the community and its public health workforce," said Yesenia D. Villalta, APRN, DNP, MSN, Administrator/Health Officer of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. "The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, along with the community, is dedicated on being prepared to

respond as these unprecedented times of extremely active weather and disaster occurrences have become more frequent.”

For more information about the Hurricane Response Hub or to submit a technical assistance request, visit www.nnphi.org/hurricane-response-hub or send an email to HRH@nnphi.org

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About the Florida Institute for Health Innovation

The Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI), formerly known as the Florida Public Health Institute, is one of several sister public health institutes throughout the United States. FIHI is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that improves community health through innovation and collaborative change. FIHI believes that today's health challenges require a new way of working based on shared leadership, aligning root causes and strategy and measureable results. FIHI believes that innovative collaborations produce innovative solutions for healthier communities. A nonprofit public health institute, FIHI facilitates data-driven, results-based collaborative action, conducts community-focused research and evaluation, and provides impartial analysis of policy health impacts. To learn more, visit www.flhealthinnovation.org.

About the National Network of Public Health Institutes

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is a technical, financial, professional, and information network that mobilizes more than 40 member public health institutes—along with university-based public health training centers. We connect more than 8,000 subject-matter experts with organizational partners across the United States and its territories, engaging our member institutes and partners at the local, state, tribal, territorial and national levels in efforts that result in measurable improvements in population health.