In the wake of the 2017 Hurricanes, many of the hurricane-affected jurisdictions still need assistance to ensure disaster-related environmental and occupational health practices are applied to recovery efforts. The Hurricane Response Hub (HRH) initiative is a coordinated effort among federal, state, and local public health organizations to facilitate training, technical assistance, and information sharing to enhance ongoing environmental and occupational health recovery in jurisdictions affected by the 2017 hurricanes.

Through the HRH effort, professionals engaged in hurricane and disaster-related health recovery will have access to quality training and technical assistance through a network of five technical assistance centers representing the regions most affected by the 2017 hurricanes.

**HRH TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The HRH effort is leveraging the experience, capacity, and resources of the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training at NNPHI, public health institutes, public health training centers, and range of other partners, to identify environmental and occupational health recovery needs and help address those needs through providing training and technical assistance, addressing surveillance for morbidity and mortality, mental health, and improving the capacity of public health information sharing.

The Florida HRH reflects a significant positive step towards improving the resilience of the State's disaster-preparedness and emergency response workforce. Resilience in the context of public health means preceding recovery and response with prevention and preparedness; it means increasing the capacity of communities to have the resources to deal with chronic stresses and acute shocks.

Resilience is particularly important in high risk coastal areas and for low-income areas that lack resources to recover. Strengthening the resilience of our public health workforce capacity means that when the next disaster hits, we will not just bounce back, we will bounce forward.

**SERVICES WE PROVIDE**

- Email discussions
- Phone consultations
- Facilitating connections to people, organizations, or resources
- Training and educational opportunities

**CONTACT US**

Technical assistance requests: hrh@nnphi.org

Training and other resources: HRH@flhealthinnovation.org

http://flhealthinnovation.org/hrh
The Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI), will serve as the lead backbone organization that will coordinate key statewide partners in their Hurricane Response Hub (HRH) Technical Assistance (TA) Center. The Institute will work in partnership with Florida International University (FIU) Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the University of Miami (UM) Miller School of Medicine Department of Public Health Sciences, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management, the Emerald Coast Healthcare Coalition, and Catalyst Miami.

FIHI and its HRH partners are thrilled to be working alongside NNPHI and the other four regional technical assistance centers in this initiative and look forward to building the capacity of our nation's workforce together. This partnership has the organizational capacity to successfully implement public health workforce capacity building activities in disaster-related surveillance, environmental, and occupational health needs.

Together, the FL-HRH will leverage the cross-sector expertise of all partners to contribute to and build a more resourceful and highly coordinated statewide workforce.

The Florida HRH will serve the entire State, specifically in the Southeast and the Panhandle. In our communities, the annual hurricane season is the force that drives our preparedness activities. Florida is particularly vulnerable to chronic stresses, acute shocks, and behavioral impacts related to hurricanes because of dense disadvantaged communities living in low-lying coastal areas prone to extreme events. Our goal is supporting the workforce to be better prepared to respond in emergent situations, while simultaneously delivering technical assistance to those impacted by the 2017 hurricanes and streamlining public health communications and information sharing.

This project will help address these issues by building upon and leveraging expertise and lessons learned to support the public health workforce in being better prepared. HRH key activities include:

- Fulfilling technical assistance requests
- Providing resources and educational materials
- Training the workforce in disaster-related environmental and occupational health recovery needs
- Addressing surveillance for morbidity and mortality from disaster-related environmental and occupational health exposures
- Improving the capacity of public health information sharing on disaster-related environmental and occupational health issues.

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