

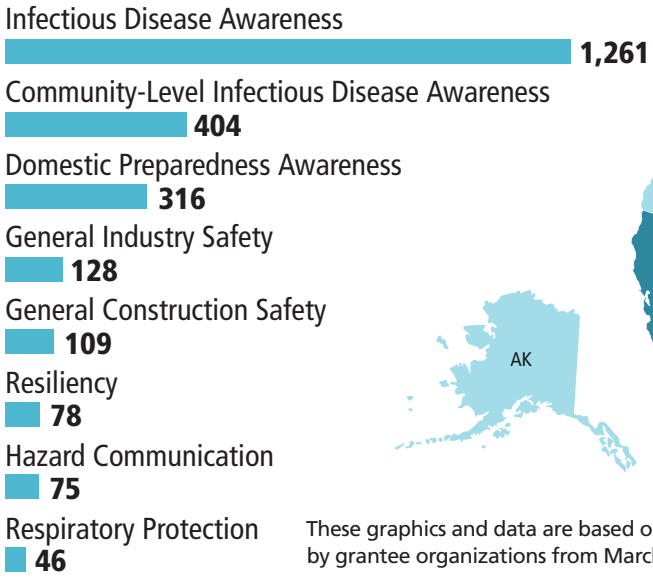
COVID-19 Appropriations: Health and Safety Training During a Pandemic

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) had a swift response to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. This response is based on years of experience and the program's capacity to [address infectious diseases, bloodborne pathogens, and other biosafety hazards](#) using regular program funds and emergency appropriations from Congress. This document focuses on how WTP used \$10 million in emergency appropriations from the [Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020](#).*

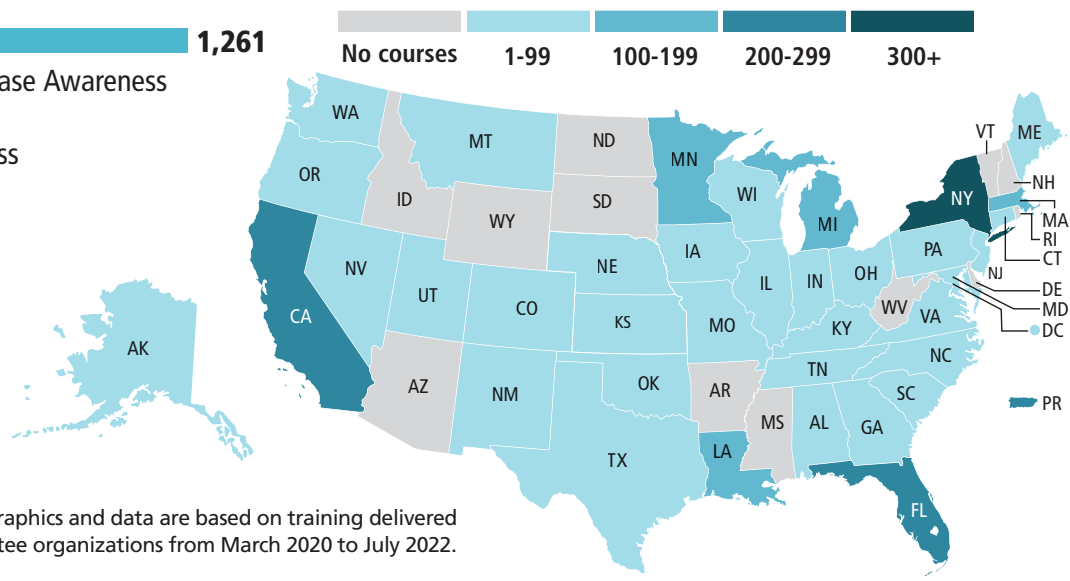
OVERVIEW



Top courses*



Geographic spread of training courses



These graphics and data are based on training delivered by grantee organizations from March 2020 to July 2022.

WORKER SECTORS TRAINED

WTP-funded organizations (grantees) make up a national network of health and safety specialists. In response to COVID-19, grantees trained workers in many occupational sectors. This includes, but is not limited to:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
|  Health care workers (first responders, emergency medical service workers) |  Painters |  Disaster and community volunteers/workers |
|  Teachers and students |  Maintenance professionals |  Maritime workers |
|  Construction workers |  Public health professionals |  Food service workers |
|  U.S. Department of Energy workers and contractors |  Transportation workers (waste haulers, airline/airport workers) |  Laboratory workers |

*Funds from the emergency appropriations were allocated for supplemental training grants and program contract support. This document does not reflect additional training and resources completed through WTP Superfund-related funding.

COVID-19 RECOVERY CENTERS

Several WTP grantees used funds to establish [COVID-19 recovery centers](#). These [grantees partner](#) with local businesses and organizations across the nation to train workers and coordinate resources to promote recovery in disadvantaged communities that face [social inequities](#). Key activities include:



E-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Some WTP [small business grantees](#) used funds to develop and deploy innovative tools for e-learning activities such as training videos, mobile applications with learning modules, and adaptive role-playing games.



RESOURCES AND EVALUATION FINDINGS

Through the emergency appropriations, contract support has and continues to provide critical COVID-19 resources and tools to further grantee training efforts across the country. The following tools and resources can be found on the [WTP COVID-19 website](#).

Training Tools and Resources

- Developed training tools and hosted train-the-trainer sessions with grantees to increase use of tools. This includes the [General Awareness](#) and the [Building Programs to Protect Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace](#) training tools.

- Converted the training tools into an online system with approximately 93% of 10,000 trainees agreeing that the course prepared them to recognize COVID-19 hazards and increased their knowledge on how to control workplace exposures.
- Offered training tools in multiple languages and in several formats for the public to download and use, including booklets and PowerPoint.
- Developed an online database called the [Material Upload and Search Tool for Infectious Disease](#), which can be used to search for science-based resources and training materials related to infectious disease and worker safety.

Webinars and Presentations

Hosted a [series of COVID-19 webinars](#) to share information with the public. Examples include:

- Realigning Conventional Routes of Transmission: Occupational Exposure (April 17, 2020)
- Addressing the Role of the Vaccine in Workplace COVID-19 Prevention: How to Weed through Misinformation, Mistrust, and Improve Worker Protection (Jan. 14, 2021)

Fact Sheets and Technical Briefs

Developed several technical briefs, fact sheets, and checklists to communicate key messages about COVID-19 health and safety issues. This includes:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Workers](#)
- [Workplace Checklist for Prevention of Exposure to SARS-CoV-2 Virus in Non-Healthcare Industries](#)



Needs Assessment and Evaluation

- Conducted a [needs assessment](#) to understand training gaps and challenges among grantees given the pivot to online and virtual learning.
- Conducted an [evaluation](#) of WTP's grant-funded COVID-19 activities, with a key finding that NIEHS WTP support and resources provided grantees with the necessary tools to deliver trainings during the COVID-19 pandemic.