



National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences
Worker Training Program

Promoting Health, Safety, and Recovery Training
Following Declared Disasters in 2022

Welcome and Introduction

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What is the NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP)?

- **Origin:** WTP was established under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, Section 126(g).
- **Mission:** Prevent work-related harm by providing health and safety (H&S) training programs for workers in various industries, including those involved in handling hazardous materials or waste and responding to disasters or emergencies.
- **Grant Recipients:** WTP funds nonprofit organizations (grant recipients) across the country. Approx. 17 grant recipients deliver H&S training.
- **Partners:** Federal, state, and local agencies; academia; unions; and community-based organizations.



WTP: Preparing Workers for Hazardous Materials & Emergency Response



Increase worker safety and health

Trained nearly 5 million workers since 1987, helping businesses and municipalities keep worksites and communities safer.



Prepare workers for disasters and emergency response

Trained thousands of workers for recovery in response to natural and man-made disasters, such as the World Trade Center attacks, western wildfires, Hurricanes Sandy and Harvey, Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and Ebola and COVID-19.



Provide workforce development and job placement for individuals experiencing underemployment

Reached more than 14,500 individuals and sustained an average job placement rate of 70%.

WTP: Special Appropriations for Disasters and Emergencies

- Hurricane Katrina (2005): **\$302K**
- Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (2010): **\$352K**
- Superstorm Sandy (2012): **\$180K**
- Ebola Virus Disease (2014): **\$10M**
- Disaster Relief Act, 2019: **\$1M**
- COVID-19 (2020): **\$10M**
- Consolidated Appropriations Act (2023): **\$2.5M**



Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

NIEHS received \$2.5 million for the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. With this supplemental funding, WTP aims to deliver training that:

- Addresses the H&S training needs of communities, volunteers, day laborers, and vulnerable worker populations following major disasters in 2022 declared pursuant to the Stafford Act.
- Supports partnerships between WTP grant recipients, worker populations, local community organizations, and other federal partners with the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality related to disaster response and recovery activities.
- Augments prevention and preparedness efforts in a wide variety of high-risk settings, and to ensure responders are aware of site-specific hazards and mitigation techniques prior to and during response activities.

Kickoff Meeting for WTP Grant Recipients that Received Supplements from Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

- On Sept. 28-29, 2023, WTP held a kickoff meeting for grant recipients and local partners in Puerto Rico.
- Grant recipients are using funds to deliver training to populations impacted by recent disasters across the U.S. and its territories.
- Connected with local government, academia, and community-based organizations in Puerto Rico who have a vested interest in disaster preparedness and response, especially in disadvantaged communities.



Group photo of WTP staff, grant recipients, and partners in Puerto Rico.