



Worker Training Program: New York

A National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund-Related Activity

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for about 19,500 workers through more than 1,250 courses in New York. Recipients of NIEHS grants lead training to prepare workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



Courses include:

- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- Confined Space Rescue
- Disaster Site Worker Train-the-Trainer
- Emergency Response
- General Construction and Industry Safety
- Hazard Communication
- Hazardous Waste Operations
- Infectious Disease Awareness and Response
- Resiliency for Disaster Workers and Volunteers

Training Highlights

Statewide Training for Public Sectors

The Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Peer Trainer Program is a labor-management cooperative approach to building comprehensive health and safety management systems in New York state agencies, local governments, and school districts. Through shared training initiatives and resources, public employees are prepared to safely respond to typical and disaster-related workplace hazards. The program involves 14 counties across the state, 15 municipalities, three school districts, and six state agencies including the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. CSEA is part of The New England Consortium-CSEA Consortium, funded through the University of Massachusetts Lowell.



Photo courtesy of CSEA

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT), funded through the International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education, trains vocational teachers in New York City to become Occupational Safety and Health Administration 10-hour trainers for their students. Through this program, vocational students may earn 10-hour or 30-hour certification cards. Additionally, AFT teaches first aid to New York City teachers, reaching more than 400 teachers in 2019.



Photo courtesy of AFC

About the Worker Training Program

WTP funds nonprofit organizations to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials and waste at work or while assisting with emergency response. WTP was initiated under the Hazardous Substance Basic Research and Training Program authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a).

Under these NIEHS Superfund-related activities, WTP grantees provide trainings across the country through the [Hazardous Waste, Hazmat Disaster, and Environmental Career Worker Training Programs](#).

For more information, visit www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp.

Job Training and Economic Impact

The Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) offers job training for disadvantaged and underrepresented workers. The New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center implements ECWTP for residents of the New York City boroughs, in collaboration with the New York City District Council of Carpenters. Since 1996, the council has trained more than 1,000 at-risk individuals through a pre-apprenticeship training program called BuildingWorks. The program has a graduation and job placement rate of more than 80%. A recent cohort of students increased their average annual earnings from less than \$10,000 to \$50,000 upon program completion. ECWTP has a nationwide [economic impact](#) through pre-employment, and health and safety, training in underserved communities.



Photo courtesy of New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center

Increasing Emergency Preparedness with Native Americans

WTP grantee Alabama Fire College (AFC) delivers hazardous waste worker, hazardous materials response, and emergency response training to the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe in Akwesasne, New York. AFC training also builds the tribe's capacity to participate in U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emergency response exercises. These exercises test regional response readiness and encourage collaboration and coordination among personnel of various agencies.



Photo courtesy of AFC

Nuclear Worker Training

Several grantees facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons and nuclear waste sites, with funding from the [NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program](#). In New York, NIEHS/DOE grantees train approximately 1,500 workers annually in courses including hazardous materials emergency response, asbestos abatement, and confined space entry. Workers from Brookhaven National Laboratory, West Valley Demonstration Project facilities, and the Separations Process Research Unit receive training in topics such as radiation safety, general construction safety, and confined space entry.



Photo courtesy of DOE

Biosafety, Biosecurity, and Infectious Disease Response

WTP provided training under the [Ebola Biosafety and Infectious Disease Response Training Program](#), a national effort to deliver infection control practices and hazard recognition training to workers in health care and non-health care settings. Across three years, grantees taught 250 courses to more than 4,500 workers throughout New York.

The program included preparing workers to conduct cleanup, decontamination, and disinfection activities following an infectious disease incident. Additionally, training was provided in New York City for domestic and commercial cleaning workers, private trash collectors, portable sanitary relief maintenance, and laundry workers to help participants maintain or obtain jobs that require infectious diseases training while understanding their rights as workers.

NIEHS received \$10 million to develop this three-year program from emergency Ebola treatment and prevention funds provided by Congress to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.