

# 27 Years of Accomplishments for the NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP)

*Making a Difference by Addressing Occupational Health Disparities*



**NIEHS WTP Justice40 Environmental Justice**

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# NIEHS WTP: Preparing Workers for Hazardous Materials & Emergency Response Since 1987



## Increase worker safety and health

- Helps businesses and municipalities keep worksites and communities safer
- Trained approximately 3.7 million workers since 1987



## Prepare workers for disasters and emergency response

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

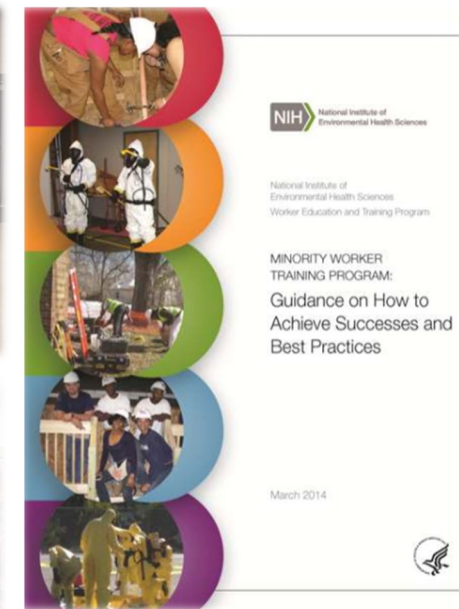


## Deliver a job and life skills training program to underemployed individuals

- Reached approximately 13,511 individuals in 30 communities
- Sustained average job placement rate of 70%



- WTP Training to reach vulnerable populations via outreach, workshop and site-specific training
- Environmental Justice and Hazardous Waste Programs – 15 Years of Investment in Environmental Justice
- Engaged in over 20 Environmental Justice and Health Disparities Conferences
- DOE National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program
- NIEHS/EPA Community and Environmental Justice Conferences – New Orleans, Detroit MI, Alexandria VA
- NIEHS/NIOSH/OSHA Eliminating Health Disparities at Work
- HHS Environmental Justice Working Group
  - Developing EJ Training, Reports on NIEHS Accomplishments on EJ
- HHS Environmental Justice Conferences
- White House Center for Environmental Quality – Workforce Development Conversations



# A National Resource in Climate Change-Related Events, Environmental Justice, and Health Emergencies

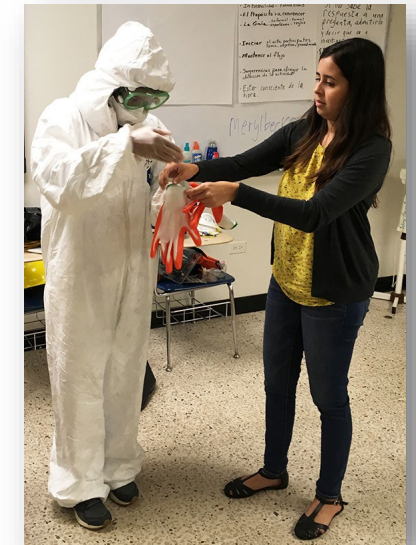
**Wildfires and Mudslides:** Training workers on firefighting and other wildfire consequences

**Flooding and Hurricanes:** Disaster safety training delivered to major US hurricanes

**Disaster Relief Act of 2019:** Congressional funds obligated for grants and *Environmental Justice, Natural Disasters, & COVID-19 Virtual Town Halls*

**Infectious Diseases:** Responded to infectious disease events including Ebola and COVID-19

**Fact Sheet - Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change and Securing Environmental Justice Through Safety and Health Training**  
[https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl\\_get\\_blob.cfm?ID=13221](https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=13221)

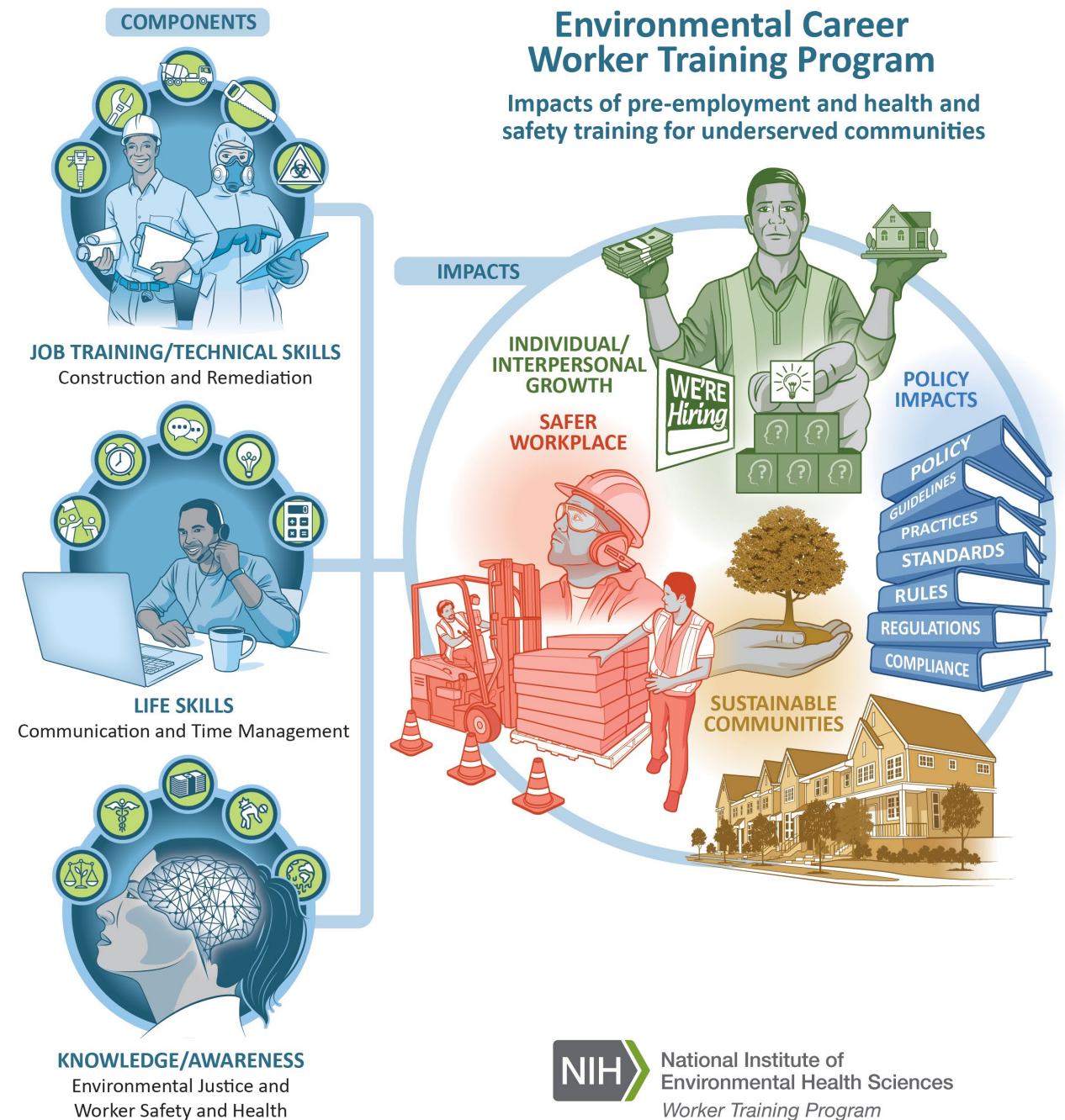




# ECWTP Advances Environmental Justice (EJ)

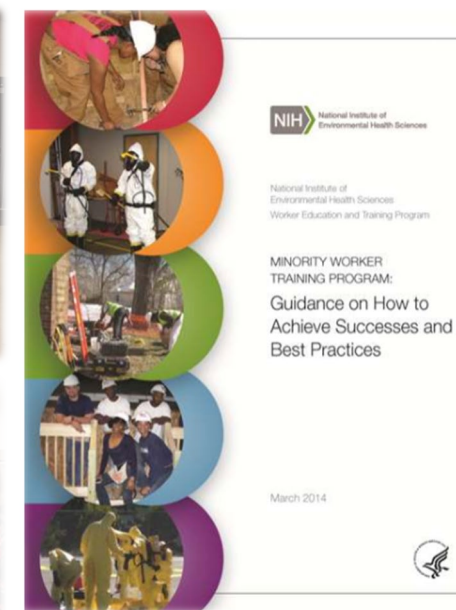
- ECWTP builds careers and changes lives
- Delivers **job/technical and life skills training**, wrap-around **social services**, and **education**
- Produces **individual, workplace, community**, and **socio-economic policy benefits** to advance EJ and health equity in underserved communities

ECWTP Fact Sheet and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Website:  
[https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp\\_factsheet\\_2021.pdf](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp_factsheet_2021.pdf)  
and <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2595>



# WTP 27 Years of the ECWTP in 2022: Creating Job Opportunities & Changing Lives

- **Success:** Since beginning of program, **approx. 13,511 workers** have been trained with an average **70% employment rate**
- **Locations:** Over 30 communities trained with 200 different CBOs
- **Current Programs:** Six grantees working with 25 different CBO's
  - **2021:** 491 individuals trained with 305 at a **62% job placement rate.**  
**\*Note - The COVID-19 pandemic impacted training.**
  - **2020:** 455 individuals training with 255 employed at a **59% job placement rate.** **\*Note - The COVID-19 pandemic impacted training.**
  - **2019:** 644 individuals trained with 497 obtaining jobs for a 77% job placement rate. Offered 303 courses across all programs
  - **Takeaways: Changing Lives & Building Careers for a Lifetime**
  - **Training Best Practices:** Extensive life skills, mentoring, numerous technical training and certificates and career options for graduates



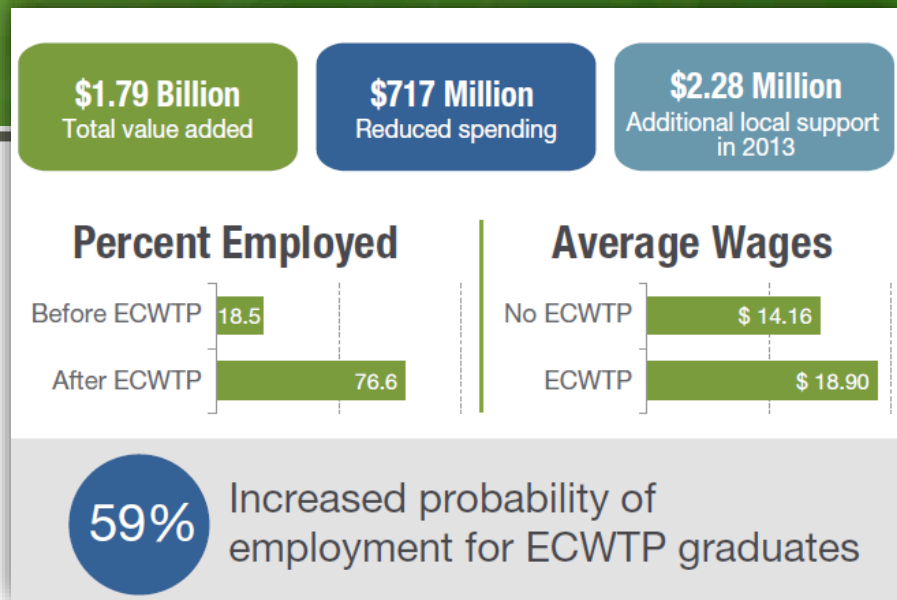


## Major Findings

### Economic Impact: \$100 million return on \$3.5 million investment

- Increased probability of employment by 59%
- \$1.6M in higher earnings for graduates (from increased likelihood of employment, more hours worked, and higher wages)
- \$1.79 billion (total value added)
- \$717 million reduction in government expenditures

Economic impact report: [https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp\\_ecwtp\\_report\\_508.pdf](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp_ecwtp_report_508.pdf)



The analysis/report was completed by NIEHS WTP, the National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training, and economists Robert Baumann and Bryan Engelhardt from College of Holy Cross

### A 2019 financial survey of graduates conducted by the NJ/NY Hazardous Materials Training Center, showed:

**\$14,500**

Average income for applicants who were working

50% unemployed

25% receiving SNAP, TANF, UI

13% living in public housing

5% living in shelter/ transitional housing



**\$96,800**

Average base pay for those working 5 years after program

77% earn over \$50,000

24% earn over \$100,000

30% own homes

30% are debt free

## Major Findings

***Program leaves a life-changing impact on people from various cultures and backgrounds. Trainee stories are the best metric of success.***



T. Sturdivant was unemployed with no vocational experience. He entered an apprenticeship program and later became journeyman. Today, he is a business agent for the Operative Plasterers and Cement Masons International Assoc. Local Union 633.

*Sturdivant said he does not know where he would be right now if not for the ECWTP. "I'm grateful for the career this program gave me, but the safety training is what keeps you in the career."*



J. Alvarado was previously incarcerated, earning less than \$11,000 a year, receiving SNAP benefits and living in public housing. He graduated BuildingWorks and finished his apprenticeship in 2019. He is currently a journeyman carpenter.

*Alvarado credits the program for preparing him for union life. He has worked on many sites throughout New York City and regularly visits BuildingWorks classes to speak with students about his experiences.*

More trainee spotlights here: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2599> and

August 2020 NIEHS E-Factor at <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov/2020/8/feature/3-feature-worker-training/index.htm>



## Sustainable jobs: Climate change, green jobs and more....



JobTrain participants in East Palo Alto posed with Beard, far right; WTP Director Joseph “Chip” Hughes, second row, middle; and WTP Public Health Educator Demia Wright, second row, far left. (Photo courtesy of Sharon Beard)

- CPWR works with [JobTrain](#) to deliver construction training for individuals in East Palo Alto, California. This partnership led to an agreement with the [San Francisco Public Utilities Commission](#) that ensures graduates are a first source for hires by the commission.
- [OAI, Inc.](#), in Chicago, uses funding from the Illinois [Future Energy Jobs Act](#) to teach solar panel installation.
- Individuals who received hazardous materials instruction from the [Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium](#) served on the front lines of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Community health workers trained by the [Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization](#) are helping local populations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Grantees & Capacity Building for Communities

Building capacity in many underserved communities and target areas across the U.S. through education, training, and worker empowerment

Grantee	Target Areas/ Locations
Atlantic Center for Occupational Health and Safety- NJ/NY Consortium	Metro areas surrounding NYC, NY and Newark, NJ
Western Region Universities Consortium	Metro areas of Los Angeles, CA ▪ Tribal Communities in Alaska ▪ Portland, OR
CPWR – The Center for Construction Research and Training	East Palo Alto, CA ▪ Flint, MI ▪ New Orleans, LA ▪ Roxbury, MA
OAI - Opportunity, Advancement, & Innovation in Workforce Development	Chicago, IL ▪ Dallas, TX ▪ Kansas City, MO and KS ▪ Indianapolis, IA
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium (Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, Inc.)	New Orleans, LA ▪ Houston, TX ▪ Pensacola, FL ▪ Detroit, MI
Sustainable Workplace Alliance	Orlando FL ▪ Brevard County, FL ▪ San Juan, PR

Grantee spotlights available here: <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2598>

new beginning **IMPACT**  
*Opportunity*  
 Vulnerable Communities BUILDING CAREERS  
**SAFETY** life change  
 empower **TRAINING ENVIRONMENTAL**  
 transformation  
 HEALTHY FUTURE **Strong Foundation Sustainability**  
 knowledge **Clean Up**  
 25 YEARS  
 ECWTP

ECWTP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Webpage:  
[tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2596](https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2596)



## Additional Resources

- ECWTP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Page - <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2596>
- NIEHS E-Factor Article on 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ECWTP - <https://factor.niehs.nih.gov/2020/8/feature/3-feature-worker-training/index.htm>
- 2021 ECWTP Fact Sheet - [https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp\\_factsheet\\_2021.pdf](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/assets/docs/ecwtp_factsheet_2021.pdf)
- NIEHS WTP Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change and Securing Environmental Justice - [https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl\\_get\\_blob.cfm?ID=13221](https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=13221)
- Economic Impact Report - [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp\\_ecwtp\\_report\\_508.pdf](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/wtp_ecwtp_report_508.pdf)
- ECWTP Podcasts - <https://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/index.cfm?id=2600>
- Best Practices Report - [http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl\\_get\\_blob.cfm?ID=10040](http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/public/hasl_get_blob.cfm?ID=10040)
- NIEHS Worker Training Program - <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/index.cfm>
- NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program - [https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training\\_program\\_areas/doe/index.cfm](https://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/training_program_areas/doe/index.cfm)
- NIEHS National Clearinghouse - <http://tools.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/>





National Institute of  
Environmental Health Sciences  
*Worker Training Program*



Environmental Career Worker Training Program



Timeline



Grantees



Trainees



Multimedia

Questions?

**Opportunity**  
Vulnerable Communities

BUILDING  
CAREERS

**SAFETY** life change



empower **TRAINING**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL**

transformation

HEALTHY FUTURE **Strong Foundation**  
**Sustainability**

