

# Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support

## Office of Island Affairs

The Office of Island Affairs (OIA) within CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support strengthens public health systems to improve health outcomes for the five US territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands) and the three freely associated states (Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands). OIA facilitates public health technical assistance, training, information, funding, and technology transfer for these islands.

Public health issues impact these islands harder than most places because of their location and limited local capacity. Recognizing the unique historical, geographic, social, demographic, and cultural dynamics of the US territories and freely associated states, CDC established OIA to improve public health for US citizens, noncitizens, and nationals residing on these islands.

OIA staff help further public health initiatives in the US territories and freely associated states and address multiple public health crises, including natural disasters. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, OIA also has field staff in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

## Our Mission

OIA supports island health officials and their workforce to strengthen public health systems for improved health outcomes.

### Our Work

- Facilitate site visits with senior island health officials and CDC leaders
- Consult with island health officials and stakeholders to identify priority public health issues with national and international partners
- Work with national partners to train island officials on public health-related issues, including environmental health, death registry, carbon monoxide poisoning, suicide prevention, emergency response and preparedness, and grants management
- Collaborate with CDC program and grants management staff to oversee CDC's more than \$70 million investment in hurricane recovery projects, and work closely with CDC's Incident Management System and island health staff to effectively address the COVID-19 pandemic
- Lead routine sessions with CDC project officers working in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, or the US-affiliated Pacific islands to maximize cross-agency awareness of issues, troubleshoot concerns, and leverage successes
- Routinely assess programs' financial status to identify issues early and ensure fiscal responsibility
- Connect multilaterally with the US territories and freely associated states, CDC, federal agencies, and national and international stakeholders through regular communication, such as OIA's weekly bulletins, and situation reports for public health emergencies



**Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention**  
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### Our Role

As CDC's primary point of coordination for the islands, OIA consults, convenes, collaborates, and communicates to improve coordination within and among CDC, other federal agencies, island health departments, and other key stakeholders to ensure stewardship of federal funds and effective program implementation.

