CDC PHPR Fact Sheet

CDC Grants Will Help Understand Health Effects of Hurricanes

It's a familiar sight – cars floating in murky water, debris littered in fields and houses half collapsed from the tremendous force of water and wind. These were the images after Hurricane Sandy racked the northeast coast in the fall of 2012 – the second costliest hurricane in U.S. history. A year later, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, are providing money to support rebuilding efforts and find ways to help health systems and communities hit hardest by the storm recover.

Funded under the Hurricane Sandy Recovery and Rebuilding Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2013, the two-year research grants aim to determine the best ways communities can prepare for and recover from natural disasters like hurricanes. CDC will award $7.1 million to 13 grantees over a two year period. Grantees will focus on three priority areas: mold mitigation, characterization of death and disease after the hurricane, and evaluation of various public health systems responses.

The results of this research will enhance the recovery process and contribute to the resiliency of this region and its communities to withstand future public health threats. Information from these studies is expected to provide insight on how to adapt and sustain our public health and health care systems during an event like this. In addition, the results can immediately be applied to communities recovering from similar events.

Grant Recipients

Grantee	Location	Project Title & Description	Grant Amount
Columbia University	New York	*Impact of Health Department Worker Safety Training on Health Impacts after Sandy* – to study fungal exposure in New York City homes and subsequent respiratory issues among children in homes damaged due to Hurricane Sandy.	$990,465
Health Research Inc. & the New York State Department of Health	New York	*Assessing Health Effects and Risk Factors after Hurricane Sandy* – to study whether people with certain neighborhood characteristics, high social vulnerability, or have been relocated for long periods of time are more vulnerable to mental health problems or other adverse health outcomes after Hurricane Sandy.	$581,793
New Jersey State Department of Health & New Jersey Medical School	New Jersey	*Impacts on Health and Mental Health post Superstorm Sandy* – to characterize the morbidity, mortality, and hospitalization trends, as well as identify the causes of death that increased or decreased, in the year after Hurricane Sandy in New Jersey state.	$540,202
Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and Nassau County (NY) Department of Human Services	New York	*Development of a Vulnerability Profile of the Psychological Sequelae of Hurricane Victims* – to understand the psychological impact of Hurricane Sandy, as well as investigate the impact of various displacement strategies on the mental health of residents.	$600,398

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Public Health Solutions and the New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene	New York	*Impact of Hurricane Sandy on Morbidity and Mortality in NYC* – to study the impact of the hurricane on morbidity and mortality in health care facilities and nursing homes, evaluate community and individual risk factors for injury-related morbidity and mortality and determine the short- and long-term effects of Hurricane Sandy on the mental health of New York City residents.	608,297
Health Research, Inc. and the New York State Department of Health	New York	*NYSDOH Hurricane Sandy Recovery: Priority Research Area C: Evaluation of the Pub* – to evaluate the New York State Department of Health public health system in its preparation, response, and recovery from Hurricane Sandy, and to research modifications needed to improve future response and recovery	$400,000
Columbia University, New York Morningside, Westchester County (NY) Department of Health and Nassau County Department of Human Services	New York	*Evaluation of Public Health Systems Response to Hurricane Sandy in the NYC Area* – to evaluate the Nassau and Westchester County Health Departments response to Hurricane Sandy, as well as determine how public health workers can improve their disaster response and recovery efforts.	$398,134
Johns Hopkins University and Cecil County (Md.) Health Department	Maryland	*Examining and Enhancing Public Health Workers Sense of Efficacy Toward Hurricane Sandy* – to study challenges local public health agency workers faced during Hurricane Sandy and accessing workers perspectives toward the recovery challenges.	$399,999
Queens College	New York	*Reducing Occupational Hazards of Sandy-Related Work of Immigrant Day Laborers* – to study and figure out a way to reduce the work hazards immigrant construction laborers in New York face at worksites related to clean-up and reconstruction in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.	$541,523
Medical College of New York	New York	*Impact of Health Department Worker Safety Training on Health Impacts after Sandy* – to study the impact of New York City health department conducted worker safety training on environmental remediation for the public and volunteers after Hurricane Sandy.	$561,054
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services	New Jersey	*Evaluating the Needs, Knowledge and Health Impacts of Three Worker Populations During and After Superstorm Sandy* – to evaluate the impact of New York City health department conducted worker safety training on environmental remediation for the public and volunteers after Hurricane Sandy.	$493,174
University of Connecticut School of Medicine	Connecticut	*Recovery from Catastrophic Weather: Mold Exposure and Health-Related Training* – to develop mold exposure and health-related training materials for emergency response personnel and health care providers.	$500,000
Rand Corporation	New York	*Fugitive Chemicals after Hurricane Sandy* – to assess exposure to and build a model of potential health risks to recovery workers exposed to fugitive chemicals in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.	$562,500