

HEALTH FOR HEROES

Partner Toolkit



New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health



Thank you for partnering with NYCOSH for the Health for Heroes Campaign!

This Partner Toolkit has information to support your outreach – please visit bit.ly/health4heroes for more information.

For questions about outreach please reach Liam Lynch E-mail: llynch@nycosh.org

Tel: 212-227-6440 x 21; all media inquiries: Mónica Novoa E-mail: mnovoa@nycosh.org

Tel: 929-366-5320.

In this toolkit, you'll find ways to help us spread the word:

1. Read the About page
2. Post ready-made **#health4heroes** messages on social media
3. Use sample e-blast to reach your members
4. Use the article template and write something up for your newsletter or an Op-ed
5. Gather and share survivor and responder stories with us – reach out to Mónica Novoa: mnovoa@nycosh.org
6. Distribute outreach literature to your members or people within your community (hard copies available upon request)
7. Invite NYCOSH to event/meeting to present on program or provide with enrollment assistance – reach out to Liam Lynch: llynch@nycosh.org
8. Download the Campaign Button at bit.ly/health4heroes to use on your website and link to the World Trade Center Health Program page



About NYCOSH's Health for Heroes Outreach Campaign

To mark the 15th anniversary of 9/11, The New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health's (NYCOSH's) Health for Heroes outreach campaign partnered with labor and community organizations in order to coordinate outreach and ensure that more workers are fully informed about the services provided by the World Trade Center Health Program.

Presenting sponsor, the New York City Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO); and lead sponsors, the New York Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, kicked off the campaign with a New York City labor drive that reached hundreds of labor affiliates throughout the city. NYCOSH continues to coordinate the campaign, providing outreach and enrollment assistance to organizations and individual workers impacted by the 9/11 disaster.

Background

The James Zadroga Act was renewed in December 2015 securing healthcare and compensation for 9/11 responders and survivors for the next 75 years. This new legislation is critical to the health and wellbeing of those workers and residents impacted by the 9/11 disaster and brings peace of mind to these courageous individuals and their families. However, there are many who are still unaware of the existence of the services established by the Zadroga Act, specifically the WTC Health Program and the Victim Compensation Fund.

- While there are currently over 70,000 responders and survivors enrolled in the WTC Health Program, it is estimated that 400,000 were exposed to the WTC-derived contaminants on 9/11 and the months following.
- This means fewer than 20% of those who were exposed are currently enrolled.
- Moreover, those who are unaware are currently sick and are continuing to fall ill from exposure to the toxic

WTC-derived contaminants. NYCOSH's report **Health and Hardship: Stories from 9/11's Unsung Heroes**, in partnership with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, highlights this truth through testimony from eight responders who have complex and evolving 9/11-related illnesses. The WTC Health Program provides 9/11-specific no-cost healthcare to responders and survivors who are battling these conditions. The time to act is now. It is our collective and urgent responsibility to inform the community that help is available now.

NYCOSH's Role in World Trade Center Response

Beginning with the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and continuing to present day, NYCOSH has worked extensively on World Trade Center-related occupational and environmental health issues. Within days of 9/11, NYCOSH produced and distributed a series of fact sheets about respiratory protection and safe work and cleanup procedures. NYCOSH has been conducting outreach on the WTC Health Program to key groups of workers, comprising responders in the building trades, city and state agencies, and union and non-union workers including Spanish-speaking responders and survivors who have either lost touch with the program or have not been able to access outreach literature. NYCOSH is dedicated to reaching as many 9/11 responders and survivors as possible to inform them of the World Trade Center Health Program administered by NIOSH.



Sample Social Media Posts

We've partnered w @NYCOSH to connect more people to the #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram. Learn more: bit.ly/health4heroes #health4heroes

The #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram covers approx 100 conditions—do you know someone who needs specialized care? bit.ly/health4heroes

Workers got sick whether they helped for 1 day or 100-help us connect them to #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram bit.ly/health4heroes

No-cost specialized healthcare still available 4 #9/11 responders & survivors, visit #WTCHHealthProgram 4 more info bit.ly/health4heroes

400K people were exposed to toxins; about 20% are enrolled in the #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram. Help us reach more people #health4heroes

There are approx. **100** covered conditions under #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram – do you know someone who needs specialized care? #health4heroes bit.ly/health4heroes

13% of #9/11 responders were #immigrant laborers, many undocumented- #WorldTradeCenterHealthProgram is for them too bit.ly/health4heroes



Email Blast template

Dear Members,

We've partnered with the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health's (NYCOSH) Health for Heroes campaign to reach more responders and survivors of 9/11. In 2015, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act Reauthorization was signed into law extending specialized healthcare, and monitoring for 9/11 responders and survivors till 2090.

Years later, the 9/11 disaster remains a major public health concern as many responders and survivors continue to fall ill from their exposure to the toxic dust. There are over 100 different illnesses related to 9/11 exposure.

While there are currently over 70,000 responders and survivors enrolled in the WTC Health Program, it is estimated that 400,000 were exposed to the WTC-derived contaminants on 9/11 and the months following. Therefore, many of those exposed are not receiving the specialized healthcare they need and deserve. We have a collective responsibility to make sure those within our community who were impacted by the disaster are aware of the services provided by the WTC Health Program.

All members involved in the rescue, recovery, clean-up, restoration and support services on 9/11 or the months following or worked, lived, went to school or were passing by the [NYC Disaster Area](#) may be eligible for medical services provided by the WTC Health Program and financial compensation through the Victim Compensation Fund. The WTC Health Program provides specialized physical and mental health services at no-cost to responders and survivors and there are multiple clinics in the New York Metro Area and throughout the country.

For more information on the [WTC Health Program](#), you can connect to the program directly at 1-888-982-4748 or visit their website @ www.cdc.gov/wtc or to connect with NYCOSH's hotline on the program call 855- 498-2243 or visit nycosh.org or e-mail Liam Lynch at llynch@nycosh.org. For information on the Victim Compensation Fund, connect their hotline 1-855-885-1555.



Sample Article on WTC Health Program

Possible Titles:

NIOSH's World Trade Center Health Program Treats 9/11 Responders & Survivors

Union Members Battling 9/11-related illnesses Nearly 15 Years Later

Healthcare Available for Members Involved in 9/11 Recovery

Sample Article:

Nearly a decade and a half after the 9/11 disaster, members involved in the 9/11 response or who were present in Lower Manhattan may still be eligible for no-cost healthcare services to monitor and treat 9/11-related conditions. As the 15th anniversary approaches, 9/11 unfortunately remains a major public health concern for the thousands of responders and survivors (area residents/workers) still suffering from illnesses related to their exposure to the WTC-derived contaminants. Many first responders and survivors are continuing to experience physical and mental health symptoms as a result of their work or presence in the NYC Disaster Area. The WTC Health Program which was established under the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 enables workers who participated in the rescue, recovery, clean-up, restoration, and support services as well as those who were present, lived, worked or went to school in the area to receive no-cost medical screening and treatment. However, the number of enrollees in the program does not reflect the full population of responders and survivors exposed to WTC-derived contaminants. It is estimated that 400,000 people were exposed to the WTC-derived contaminants in the days, weeks, and months following the attacks¹ while there are currently over 70000 responders and survivors receiving care from the WTC Health Program².

Workers involved in the construction and building trades, communications trades, state and city agencies, temporary workers, and immigrant day laborers were a part of the 90,000 responders that helped this city recover in the wake of the disaster. Many toiled for days, weeks, and months working long shifts without proper personal protective equipment inhaling a myriad of WTC-derived contaminants.

From this exposure, chronic cough, shortness of breath, acid reflux, certain cancers (among many other conditions) could be a 9/11-related condition. The WTC Health Program provides no-cost medical monitoring and treatment for responders and survivors with 9/11-related conditions in the New York metropolitan area as well as throughout the country. Physicians affiliated with the program can provide specialized healthcare for 9/11 responders and survivors across the nation. For more information, please call the WTC Health Program directly at 1-888-982-4748 or visit their website @ www.cdc.gov/wtc or to connect with NYCOSH's hotline on the program call 855- 498-2243 or visit nycosh.org.

¹ Newman, DM. 2014. Protecting Worker and Public Health During Responses to Catastrophic Disasters- Learning From the World Trade Center Experience. American Journal of Industrial Medicine 57: 1295-98.

² "Fact Sheet on HR. 1786/S.928 Statistics that show the Size and Scope of the 9/11 Health Crisis facing Responders, Survivors and their Families." Citizens for the Extension of the James Zadroga Act. 2014



Help us build a Health for Heroes Story Bank

The Health for Heroes Campaign would like to highlight worker stories via social media for press inquiries and in personal testimony from directly affected people themselves. If you know workers who will share their stories and might be interested in media training, please send contact information and a brief story description to mnovoa@nycosh.org

How do I collect a story?

Make sure that the person is comfortable with their story being shared with others.

Collect key information such as name, age and contact info (email and or phone).

When possible, photograph the person or ask them to provide a photo.

If you want to quote someone, ask questions such as: What would you say to a responder or survivor that is not connected to care? What is your story?

Story Intake Questions for Responders and Survivors

Name:

Age:

Occupation:

Current Status:

Involvement in 9/11 response efforts:

Responder Efforts

1. Tell us about your involvement in the 9/11 rescue, recovery, and cleanup work.
2. How long did you participate, and what were your duties?
3. Were you given protective gear, and were you trained on its proper use? (Respirator use and training) Were you given any training/education on how to protect yourself from the health hazards involved in your response work?

Survivor Efforts (Area Workers/Residents/Students) Questions:

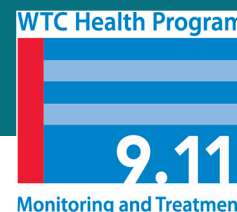
1. Tell us about your experience in the 9/11 disaster.
2. How long and for what purpose were you in the area South of Houston St on that day and the weeks and months following?
3. Were the building (s) that you occupied in the area cleaned of WTC-derived contaminants or evaluated to determine the safety and healthfulness of the building to your knowledge?

Development of Conditions for Responders and Survivors

1. Did you experience any symptoms during that time or the months following? Did you seek medical assistance during this time, if so how was your experience receiving medical monitoring/treatment? Did you pay out of pocket for these expenses or did the program/insurance pay for it?
2. What are your current 9/11 related health conditions and when were you first diagnosed?
3. How have your conditions evolved over time?
4. How have your conditions impacted your life on a day-to-day basis? How have they impacted your life in terms of family, work, and social life?
5. How has the WTC Health Program been involved in your treatment and management of conditions?



The World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program provides health services for the downtown community of men, women, and children who were the responders, residents, area workers, students and passers-by most directly affected in New York City on and after 9/11.



Medical exams, treatment and medication **FREE and from DOCTORS with 9/11 EXPERIENCE**

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED! If you were involved in the response or were in the area of the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC), you may be eligible for free medical exams, treatment, and medication from the WTC Health Program established by the U.S. Government.

Did you:

- Work or volunteer to provide rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, and support services related to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center in the following locations: Lower Manhattan (south of Canal Street), Ground Zero, Staten Island Landfill, NYC Chief Medical Examiner's Office, or the barge loading piers?
- Live, work, or go to school or day care in the area of Manhattan that is south of Houston Street and any block in Brooklyn within 1½ miles of the World Trade Center site (considered the disaster area)?
- Get exposed to the dust cloud in the disaster area?
- Work as a cleanup worker or perform maintenance work in the disaster area?

If so, you may be eligible for free WTC Health Program benefits:

- Medical monitoring exams
- Treatment services for symptoms such as:
 - Trouble breathing with wheezing, like asthma
 - Less able to do what you normally do without becoming short of breath
 - Frequent sinus problems ● Frequent nose and throat irritation
 - Stress related illness, anxiety, and depression ● Cancer
- Medication for WTC-related conditions

What should you do next?

Step 1: Apply for the program.

Get a copy of the application at www.nycosh.org (click on) or leave a message at the toll free NYCOSH hotline (English or Spanish): 855-4WTC-AID (855-498-2243) or call 1-888-982-4748 or visit the website www.cdc.gov/wtc. You are eligible regardless of immigration status.

Step 2: Make an appointment.

If you are eligible, a medical provider will contact you to make an appointment for your first free medical exam. You will be evaluated by doctors who have years of experience in treating WTC Health Program members and WTC-related illnesses.

Step 3: Learn from WTC Health Program doctors whether you have WTC-related health conditions.

You may then be eligible to receive WTC Health Program benefits. The clinic where you receive your exam will explain the full range of program benefits available to you.

Questions? Call NYCOSH at toll-free 855-4WTC-AID or call 1-888-982-4748 or visit www.nycosh.org or www.cdc.gov/wtc



You May Also Be Eligible for Compensation From the U.S. Government 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund

See complete details and application forms online at or call the toll-free number 1-855-885-1555.





You haven't forgotten
9/11
Neither have we



Were you there?

Providers in the New York City area, and across the country, monitor and treat conditions related to the September 11th terrorist attacks – like asthma, heartburn, certain cancers, depression, and PTSD. These providers treat responders and volunteers who participated in rescue, recovery, or clean-up on or after 9/11, as well as those in the WTC dust cloud or who lived, worked, or went to school or daycare in lower Manhattan south of Houston or into parts of Brooklyn.

Learn More.

Call 1-888-982-4748 or visit www.cdc.gov/wtc

World Trade Center | Pentagon | Shanksville, PA

Images depict general types of individuals who may be eligible for the World Trade Center Health Program and not actual members.

NYCOSH

9.11

WTC Health Program



9/11

I WAS THERE.

Now I'm a member of the
World Trade Center Health Program.

Were you there? Providers in the New York City area, and across the country, monitor and treat conditions related to the September 11th terrorist attacks – like asthma, heartburn, certain cancers, depression, and PTSD. These providers treat responders and volunteers who participated in rescue, recovery, or clean-up on or after 9/11, as well as those in the WTC dust cloud or who lived, worked, or went to school or daycare in lower Manhattan south of Houston or into parts of Brooklyn.

Learn More.

Call 1-888-982-4748 or visit www.cdc.gov/wtc

World Trade Center | Pentagon | Shanksville, PA

NYCOSH

9.11

WTC Health Program

Image is a model portraying an actual member of the World Trade Center Health Program.



Download these web buttons for your site at bit.ly/health4heroes and link them to the World Trade Center Health Program at: <http://www.cdc.gov/wtc/index.html>

