



REQUEST ID: TAID-133

HRHTAC: LOUISIANA PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE

The Hurricane Response Hub Technical Advisory Center (HRHTAC) at the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) created a newsletter to keep partners informed about important disaster preparedness trainings and collaboration opportunities. Through the newsletter, LPHI was connected with the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force, a coalition of state, civil society, and citizen organizers committed to the prevention of human trafficking.

This nontraditional partnership proved to be important because human trafficking can often increase following natural disasters when individuals are more vulnerable due to the unique issues hurricanes and other disasters present. LPHI recognized the need for partners to learn more about human trafficking and began hosting trainings, which were presented by the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force.



“It’s really important to think about human trafficking when we’re doing post-disaster work, because there are so many different vulnerabilities at play,” said Leanne McCallum, coordinator for the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force. “Whether folks have lost their homes. Whether they lost their jobs. Whether their communities lost stability.”

The first training was held in New Orleans, followed by trainings in Shreveport and Baton Rouge. More than 150 people attended the trainings and walked away with information on how human trafficking intersects with natural disasters, how to spot human trafficking, and evidence-based approaches for response.

One of the attendees shared, “Great presentation – presenters were very knowledgeable, well-prepared, and wonderful. Thanks to each group and organization that hosted today.”

“The fact that these training opportunities stemmed from a newsletter demonstrates how important it is to include all groups, both large and small, in conversations around emergency preparedness,” said Michelle Lackovic, principal investigator for the Louisiana Hurricane Response Hub. “Through the Louisiana Hurricane Response Hub, we’ve been able to bring together new partners who have not historically been represented with established disaster preparedness agencies to provide important information for disaster preparedness and response efforts.”



REQUEST ID: TAID-113

HRHTAC: FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH INNOVATION

The Hurricane Response Hub Technical Advisory Center (HRHTAC) at the Florida Institute for Health Innovation (FIHI) prioritizes interdisciplinary coordination and cross-sector collaboration in its training development. As part of the organization's first technical assistance request with Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc. (HHI), the Florida Hurricane Response Hub (FL-HRH) leveraged its expertise from their various partners to assist in addressing HHI's needs.

HHI is a volunteer-driven, community-based grassroots organization that focuses on addressing the unmet health needs of Florida's Hispanic population and other medically disadvantaged populations of Central Florida. The organization contacted the FL-HRH for information and guidance on how to develop and train a team of community peer educators and Community Health Workers that would be capable of providing support during hurricane-related health response and recovery efforts in their local communities.

To gain a better understanding of what trainings and resources were currently available and relevant to HHI's request, the FL-HRH consulted with their interdisciplinary team of statewide partners consisting of academic institutions, government organizations, and healthcare coalitions.

The collaborative input allowed the team to provide HHI with information to help their volunteers and community members better prepare for hurricanes with bilingual resources, such as family disaster plans. **The FL-HRH recommended trainings from the local Community Emergency Response Team and Medical Reserve Corp, which provided the flexibility HHI needed to train its volunteers. These trainings will support HHI's efforts to provide meaningful guidance to medically and socially under-served individuals and their families on how to navigate the social and health systems.**





REQUEST ID: TAID-120

HRHTAC: PUERTO RICO HURRICANE RESPONSE HUB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

The Hurricane Response Hub Technical Advisory Center (HRHTAC) at the Puerto Rico Public Health Institute and the Puerto Science Technology and Research Trust values its strong collaborative relationship with federal and local government partners to offer effective recovery support services for mental health in Puerto Rico.

The US Department of Health and Human Services Health and Social Services (HSS) Recovery Support Function (RSF) offers training to develop and promote skills for psychological recovery after hurricanes and disasters. To reach their goal of training at least 25 psychologists, counselors, and other professionals in Puerto Rico on ways to accelerate psychological recovery after hurricanes and other disasters, the HSS RSF submitted a technical assistance request to the Puerto Rico Hurricane Response Hub Technical Assistance Center (PRHRHTAC).

The PRHRHTAC assisted with the identification of an appropriate venue and the promotion of the training and capacity building opportunities for this workforce. A total of 50 participants received this training, and the audience was made up of psychologists, counselors, and others who provide behavioral health services through programs of the University of Puerto Rico, ASSMCA, and the Carlos Albizu University.



“The Puerto Rico Hurricane Response Hub was pleased to serve as a facilitator in supporting the training of mental health professionals to be able to more effectively help others in times of unease and despair in Puerto Rico after hurricanes Irma and María,” explained Martin Montoya, operations director for the Puerto Rico Public Health Trust.

The PRHRHTAC and HSS RSF also identified the need to make this training available to an even broader audience of public health, emergency response, and mental health professionals, so the PRHRHTAC sponsored video recording and editing of the training. The short training on the promotion of skills for psychological recovery post disasters will be adapted by the PRHRHTAC team to its online learning academy on the WISBOO Platform. This will ensure that the training content will be available in the future for a broad range of interested public health professionals, first responders, community leaders, and others that may need to build these skills to support hurricane-related health recovery.

If your organization needs resources such as fact sheets, consultation on disaster recovery issues, introductions to people or organizations that provide related services, or training and educational opportunities, our TACs can help. Complete a [Technical Assistance Request Form](#). To learn more about the Hurricane Response Hub visit www.nnphi.org/hurricane-response-hub/.

