

Mobilizing 44 member institutes and 10 university-based regional training centers, NNPHI is a network of over 50 organizations and 4,500 subject matter experts with partners across the nation. To build healthy communities, we support the public health workforce, promote collaboration across sectors, and drive the field towards innovative research and practice.

## NETWORK EXPERIENCE

NNPHI's distributed capacity network offers experience and expertise related to environmental health evidence-based policies and programs. The following are examples of relevant experience within NNPHI and the network. Please note this is not a comprehensive representation of the breadth and depth of experience across the network.

## ASTHMA

- **Health Resources in Action's** (HRiA) Healthy Environments Advance Learning: Building Capacity for Resilient Schools in MA (hereinafter, HEAL) is a project of MA Asthma Action Partnership (MAAP). HEAL aims to foster knowledge and build capacity to improve environmental health conditions within MA schools most burdened by asthma. HEAL currently has a cohort of four districts participating. They attend peer learning sessions and complete virtual modules that delve into the Clearing the Air: An Asthma Toolkit for Healthy Schools (developed by MAAP and MA Department of Public Health). HRiA and partners are providing training, technical assistance, and mini grants to these four districts in support of the development of one policy or practice to address environmental asthma triggers and/or extreme heat in a school or the district. HRiA has received additional funding to provide further support and \$200,000 across one-fourth of these districts for a more in-depth project over the next three years.
- **Health Resources in Action/MAAP** are also collaborating on the Healthy Air Network (the Network), a project of the Public Health Institute of Western MA (PHIWM), Krystal Pollitt, PhD, P. Engineering, Yale School of Public Health (Yale) and others. It builds on the collaboration led by PHIWM, Yale, and community partners in Western MA, intending to expand across MA and New England. The Network's website will serve as a universal platform to provide real-time, easily accessible, actionable data for communities with air quality (AQ) sensors calibrated to the Network. The Network seeks to foster, support, and/or build capacity of local organizations and agencies conducting AQ monitoring for PM<sub>2.5</sub> and O<sub>3</sub> across MA and New England (and will be providing sensors and mini grants to three CBOs in MA EJ communities).
- **Public Health Institute's** [Regional Asthma Management and Prevention](#) program has helped pass California diesel emission regulations that are projected to prevent 150,000 cases of asthma, 12,000 cases of acute bronchitis, and 9,400 premature deaths over 15 years.

## CLIMATE AND HEALTH

- One of the **Colorado Health Institute's** key initiatives is called [Acclimate Colorado](#), which aims to protect the health and well-being of communities in the face of climate change. Additionally, CHI also published [Colorado's Climate and Colorado's Health: Examining the Connection](#).
- **Texas Health Institute, Louisiana Public Health Institute, Puerto Rico Public Health Trust, Florida Institute for Health Innovation, and Region IV Public Health Training Center**

(**Emory University Rollins School of Public Health**) concluded the [Hurricane Response Hub](#) project in 2021, a coordinated effort among federal, state, and local public health organizations that facilitated training, technical assistance, and information sharing to enhance ongoing environmental and occupational health recovery in jurisdictions affected by the 2017 Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

- **Hawai'i Public Health Institute** – Participates in the Hawai'i Climate Change & Health Working Group, initially convened in August of 2015 (HCR 108, SD1), to help the State consider and plan for the impacts of climate change on population-based human health and well-being and has developed preliminary findings and recommendations for policymaker consideration.
- **Health Resources in Action** has been working with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on the issue of climate change and public health since 2012. For example, HRIA collected data, conducted analysis, and prepared the following report: [Readiness to Address the Health Impacts of Climate Change in Massachusetts: Findings from a Statewide Survey](#).
- **Kansas Health Institute's** [Health and Climate Change in Kansas](#) issue briefly examines the impacts of a warming climate on health, agriculture, and the environment.
- The **Public Health Institute** established the [Center for Climate Change & Health](#) to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on human health, and to promote opportunities to improve health through strategies to address climate change. Additionally, the [Achieving Resilient Communities](#) project is partnering with California communities to identify priority metrics and make measurable progress toward becoming more resilient. PHI's Center for Climate Change and Health seeks to build capacity in urban health departments through a variety of different approaches in collaboration with community partners.
- **Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts** - [Partners for a Healthier Community](#) is supporting the development of a Climate Change plan for the city of Springfield in partnership with Arise for Social Justice and Climate Action Now. The goal is to join Boston and Worcester, which already have climate action plans, in planning ways to increase energy efficiency, pollute less, enhance economic development, and save money.

## CORE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- **Colorado Health Institute's** climate and environment team has over a decade of subject matter experience in environmental policy, research, mapping, data visualization, and index creation. The team has provided expert analysis and technical support on topics ranging from energy development and public health, natural disasters (such as wildfires and floods), climate change adaptation, and understanding health inequities caused by climate and environmental impacts.
- NCEH/DEEHS and **NNPHI** are partnering with the **Texas Health Institute, South Central Public Health Training Center** within Tulane University, and the National Environmental Health Association to transition the "Biology and Control of Vectors and Public Health Pests Course" into an online curriculum, "Vector Control for Environmental Health Professionals." In 2016-2017, the team will incorporate essential Zika-related information into the training modules.
- NCEH/DEEHS and **NNPHI** are collaborating with the Colorado School of Public Health and the **Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center** to develop and implement a Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation Environmental Assessment Training and Certification Program to

increase the capacity and competence of state and local food safety program staff.

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- **Colorado Health Institute** can provide guidance, information, and technical assistance to identify and address environmental and energy justice needs and challenges in the community. Additionally, CHI can conduct local environmental justice analyses and the ability to identify environmental justice issues and challenges that need to be addressed such as disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. CHI can also assist in facilitating community engagement, meaningful decision-making, partnership building, and strengthening human capital to address environmental and energy justice issues.
- **Hawai'i Public Health Institute** has over 20 years of experience in providing education, advocacy training, and technical support to organizations and individuals so that they can be the voice of their communities to advance policies, systems, and environmental change in public health. HIPHI has worked extensively to empower residents to engage in the legislative process, ensuring they can advocate for policies that address the unique needs of their communities.
- **Health Resources in Action** has longstanding projects focused on environmental justice - including the Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership (MAAP) and the Asthma Regional Council of New England (ARC). HRiA has also been a leader in the healthy communities field with a particular focus on initiatives that lead to policy, systems, and environmental change at the local level. This work relates strongly to climate mitigation and resiliency, focusing heavily on issues of land use, housing, and infrastructure. HRiA also provides health equity and racial equity technical assistance and training to a wide range of municipal, state, and private organizations - including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH).
- **The Institute for Public Health Innovation's** work in this area includes the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, RVA Breathes (an NIH-funded study through Virginia Commonwealth University focused on childhood asthma), the Prince George's Food Equity Council, a community health worker-based interventions, and the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan expertise which identifies environmental inequities through quantitative and qualitative data collection. Additionally, IPHI has several subject matter experts on staff who have worked at the nexus of environmental health/justice and grantmaking. Specifically, in this area, IPHI can provide assistance to apply for and effectively manage energy justice and environmental grants, build capacity, facilitate community engagement and partnership building, and have knowledge of federal, state, and local grant laws and policies.
- In recent years, the **Kansas Health Institute** has helped communities across Kansas, including rural and frontier communities, to identify and address environmental justice issues by building their capacity to utilize data that includes indicators related to social, economic, and environmental determinants of health. Examples include County Health Rankings and convening meaningful and inclusive conversations around identified issues. Since 2019, KHI has been implementing Pathways to a Healthy Kansas, an initiative supported by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS), by supporting 26 communities across the state to improve health and equity through system and policy changes. KHI has also helped communities build the capacity to assess the potential implications of environmental issues on health and empower communities to use this information.

- Through its comprehensive partnership network, the **Louisiana Public Health Institute** enhances disaster-related recovery efforts by building the public health workforce's capacity in disaster surveillance, environmental and occupational health, and mental health resilience and support. LPHI's experience includes the program development, administration, and disbursement of grants and technical assistance to local and state government, network agencies, community-based providers, and organizations through the following funded highlights: \$100m federally- funded Primary Care Access Stabilization Grant program (Post-Hurricane Katrina), \$8.3m court- settlement funded New Orleans Charitable Health Fund program (Johnson & Johnson lawsuit), \$55m Deepwater Horizon court-settlement Gulf Coast Regional Health Outreach Program – Primary Care Capacity Project (BP Oil Spill).
- **The Puerto Rico Public Health Institute** works on a diversity of projects with a strong focus on community engagement and participation. They have also served as first responders in recent emergencies such as hurricanes and earthquakes providing basic supplies, mental health support, as well as connections to services. Following hurricanes Irma, Maria, and Fiona, they worked closely with a variety of partners to bring safe drinking water to rural communities through our project Proyecto Agua Limpia. Home-use water gravity-driven water filters were provided for more than 80,000 families, providing potable water solutions for approximately 200,000 residents of Puerto Rican communities. Rural communities and their leaders hosted events where their community members learned about water safety and the prevention of diseases and other health issues related to access to potable water.
- **Seven Directions** has identified climate action and risk management as crucial Indigenous public health work. They are conducting more projects in the climate and environmental justice fields, including creating climate change and public health training and materials for the Indigenous Public Health Leaders Program (IPHLP), in partnership with NNPHI.
- **Texas Health Institute** has experience as both an environmental and health disparity technical assistance center. They were one of five CDC/NNPHI Hurricane Response Hubs. **They** currently are one of eight public health institutes providing "Best Practices" technical assistance in support of the OT21-2103 grant recipients as a part of the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities. **Their** work is built on earlier CDC/NNPHI projects creating twenty online learning courses in environmental health. THI has also been one of the HRSA funded Region 6 Public Health Training Center's partners since 2014. THI resources page provides additional materials illustrating our commitment to health equity. THI's board has identified the need to address climate change, environmental health, and crisis preparedness.
- University of Arizona West EJ Center: The [Western Environmental Science Technical Assistance Center for Environmental Justice](#) (WEST EJ Center) is one of 16 centers in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE)'s *Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs)*. WEST EJ Center is powered by a network of collaborative coalitions of academic and community-based partners that collaborate with underserved communities towards environmental and energy justice. The Center is a one-stop shop for organizations and groups within these communities to receive direct help with navigating grants, building advocacy and community leadership, and technical expertise to tackle environmental or energy justice challenges in their community. The Center serves Region 9 which consists of Arizona, Nevada, California, Hawai'i, and the US Affiliated

Pacific Islands, including Native American tribes and Indigenous communities in these areas.

## HEALTHY HOMES/LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

- **Health Resources in Action** has facilitated lead poisoning prevention efforts for 15 years, leading community coalitions focused on creating lead-safe homes in Boston through visual housing assessments, outreach, and education in partnership with city agencies, and training workshops with community members and home childcare providers.
- **Public Health Management Corporation** has led environmental health service work for decades including conducting home visits focused on lead poisoning, asthma, and Healthy Homes, as well as, developing curriculum and providing training on topics such as Healthy Homes, vector control, and climate change and health.

## SAFE WATER

- **South Central Public Health Training Center**, and the National Environmental Health Association to develop a curriculum to equip environmental health professionals with strategies to improve safe drinking water programs.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To ensure the nation's 500,000 public health professionals have the skills to take on complex and evolving public health challenges, the [National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training \(NCCPHT\)](#) at NNPHI has partnered with 10 regional public health training centers and 40 local education and training sites to form a unified, national network of public health training and educational resources called the [Public Health Learning Network \(PHLN\)](#).

Examples of related trainings developed or are under development by members of the PHLN:

- [The New York State Department of Health Climate and Health Profile](#) (Region 2 Public Health Training Center)
- [Climate Change, Extreme Weather, Natural Disaster & Human Health and Integrating Climate and Public Health Data into the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis Process](#) (Region 2 Public Health Training Center)
- [Climate Change: Using Technical and Adaptive Leadership to Identify and Address Extreme Heat](#) (Region 2 Public Health Training Center)
- [Environmental Health and Equity Series: Air Pollution, Health, and Justice](#) (Region V Public Health Training Center)
- [Vectors of Disease in Disasters](#) (South Central Public Health Training Center at Tulane)
- [Decision-Making in Emergency Preparedness](#) (Midwestern Public Health Training Center)
- [Risk Communication for Emergency Preparedness](#) (Midwestern Public Health Training Center)
- [Effective Communication for Environmental Public Health](#) (Midwestern Public Health Training Center)
- [Housing Sanitation and Safety](#) (South Central Public Health Training Center at Tulane University)

- [Radiation Protection](#) (South Central Public Health Training Center at Tulane University)

## For More Information

- ✓ Contact NNPHI Climate and Crisis Preparedness [ccp@nnphi.org](mailto:ccp@nnphi.org)
- ✓ Visit our [website](#) – do not miss our network engagement directory!
- ✓ [Subscribe to the News You Can Use](#) (monthly e-newsletter for federal and foundation partners)