



Billing Code 4163-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Docket No. CDC-2020-0035; NIOSH-334]

World Trade Center Health Program Research Agenda; Request for Information

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HHS.

ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is opening a docket to solicit public comment on the scope of upcoming funding announcements for the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Program research funding cycle for FY2021. The WTC Health Program's research program helps answer critical questions about potential 9/11-related physical and mental health conditions as well as diagnosing and treating health conditions on the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

DATES: Comments must be received by **[INSERT DATE 45 DAYS FROM PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted through either of the following two methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (follow the instructions for submitting comments), or

- By Mail: NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, MS C-34, 1090 Tusculum Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226-1998.

Instructions: All written submissions received in response to this notice must include the agency name (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HHS) and docket number (CDC-2020-0035; NIOSH-334) for this action. All relevant comments, including any personal information provided, will be posted without change to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rachel Weiss, Program Analyst, 1090 Tusculum Avenue, MS: C-48, Cincinnati, OH 45226; telephone (855) 818-1629 (this is a toll-free number); email NIOSHregs@cdc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title I of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-347, as amended by Pub. L. 114-113 and Pub. L. 116-59), added Title XXXIII to the Public Health Service (PHS) Act,¹ establishing the WTC Health Program within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The WTC Health Program provides medical monitoring and treatment benefits for health conditions on the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions (List)² to eligible firefighters and related personnel, law enforcement officers, and rescue, recovery, and cleanup workers who responded to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in

¹ Title XXXIII of the PHS Act is codified at 42 U.S.C. 300mm to 300mm-61. Those portions of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 found in Titles II and III of Public Law 111-347 do not pertain to the WTC Health Program and are codified elsewhere.

² The List of WTC-Related Health Conditions is established in 42 U.S.C. 300mm-22(a)(3) - (4) and 300mm-32(b); additional conditions may be added through rulemaking and the complete list is provided in WTC Health Program regulations at 42CFR 88.15.

Shanksville, Pennsylvania (responders). The Program also provides benefits to eligible persons who were present in the dust or dust cloud on September 11, 2001, or who worked, resided, or attended school, childcare, or adult daycare in the New York City disaster area (survivors).

The Zadroga Act also requires that the Program establish a research program on health conditions resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, addressing the following topics:

- Physical and mental health conditions that may be related to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;
- Diagnosing WTC-related health conditions for which there have been diagnostic uncertainty; and
- Treating WTC-related health conditions for which there have been treatment uncertainty.

Request for Information

To establish the scope of the next 5-year research project funding cycle of the WTC Health Program, NIOSH is soliciting public comments from any interested party. Specifically, NIOSH seeks input on research priorities involving the WTC Health Program population of responders and survivors on the following questions:

- 1) What are the most important research gaps that need to be addressed within the scope of the research solicitation?
- 2) What are the most important areas of diagnostic and treatment uncertainty that could most benefit from intervention research (information that bridges the gap between science and practice, care, or treatment by addressing the barriers, challenges, and needs to advance implementation of new or improved treatment, care, or practices)?

3) What are the primary research needs of responders and survivors?

John J. Howard,

Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program and Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 2020-07982 Filed: 4/15/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/16/2020]