

Greetings!

The new year has just started and has already made its presence known. Globally, we have already experienced catastrophic events ranging from earthquakes (Haiti and Tajikistan), heavy flooding (Australia, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Western Europe), and winter weather (China, Czech Republic, and the United States), to name a few.

New York City is not immune to emergencies. From manhole fires in Brooklyn, security alerts at both Newark Liberty and JFK Airports, a hazmat spill in Staten Island, and a four-alarm residential building fire in Queens, we've already seen our share of emergencies in the past three weeks.

These events are ongoing reminders of our need to be prepared for the unexpected. No effort is too small or large and it only takes a second to educate your community about emergency preparedness or become a volunteer. Learn more about how New Yorkers can prepare for emergencies or become a volunteer. Take a look at the [NYC Citizen Corps Council \(CCC\) website](#) to find out more.

You continue to be a great resource and we hope that you will see us as the same. The NYC CCC looks forward to continuing our partnership in preparedness and volunteerism.

Uniting Communities,
NYC Citizen Corps Council

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Haiti Earthquake Response

The catastrophic events of last week's earthquake in Haiti has prompted all Americans and New Yorkers alike to give. The impact and relief needs have been heavily felt in Haiti and throughout New York's large Haitian community.

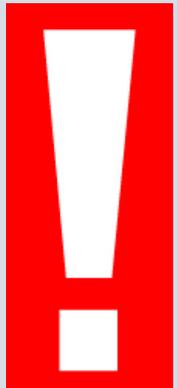
Cash donations are best for the Haiti earthquake relief efforts. The NYC Citizen Corps Council (CCC) encourages anyone wishing to contribute to relief efforts to give cash at this time. Cash donations allow relief agencies to purchase the goods that best meet victims' needs.

On January 16, New York Task Force One (NY-TF 1), New York City's Federal Emergency Management Agency-sponsored Urban Search and Rescue team managed by the NYC Office of Emergency Management was deployed to Haiti. Since arriving on 1/18/10, the team has rescued six people from collapsed buildings.

In addition to search and rescue operations of NY-TF 1, several representatives from NYC CCC organizations are assisting in the relief efforts on the ground in Haiti, including:

Notify NYC and NYC Public Schools

Families of NYC public school students can now receive notifications from Notify NYC about emergency situations at their children's schools. Parents can sign up to receive notifications - sent by e-mail, text message, or phone-about schools in up to five zip codes.



Notifications will be sent when:

- Students are relocated from their school during the school day.
- Dismissal will be delayed due to an emergency in or around the school.
- There is an emergency school closure.
- School opening is delayed due to an emergency in the school.

Register for free at www.NYC.gov/notifynyc or by calling 311.

Hope Count 2010



On Monday, January 25, the NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) will be conducting its annual Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Thousands of volunteers will canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to count the number of individuals living unsheltered in New York City.

- John Berglund - [Salvation Army of Greater New York](#)
- Rev. Noster Montas - [Disaster Chaplaincy Services](#)
- Lisa Orloff - [World Cares Center](#)
- Volunteer Team - [American Red Cross in Greater New York](#)
- Volunteer Team - [Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation](#)

New York City has one of the largest Haitian communities in the United States and many NYC CCC members have responded by pushing out information and providing services and resources to the NYC Haitian community. Examples of this work include:

- The American Red Cross in Greater New York, Disaster Chaplaincy Services, New York Disaster Interfaith Services, and Haitian community pastors are hosting a community support center at the First Haitian Church of the Brethren on Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn.
- Dwa Fanm is helping the NYC Haitian community and raising funds in partnership with the Brooklyn Tabernacle.
- World Cares Center is offering a support group for individuals with friends and family in Haiti.
- The NYC Department of Health and Mental Health (DOHMH) has developed a tip sheet, available in English and Kreyol, "[Coping with Disasters and Traumatic World Events.](#)"
- The NYC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and the NYC CCC have acted as clearinghouses for the daily distribution of information pertaining to the response in NYC, the U.S., and Haiti.

Nonprofit Security Grant

On January 4, the New York State Office of Homeland Security released the grant guidance for this year's Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This program provides support to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. Criteria for determining eligible applications include but are not limited to:



- Role of the applicant nonprofit organization in responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks
- Identification and substantiation (e.g. police reports or insurance claims) of prior threats or attacks against the nonprofit organization or closely related organizations (within or outside the U.S.) by a terrorist organization, network, or cell
- Symbolic value of the site(s) as a highly recognized national or historical institution that renders the site a possible target of terrorism
- Findings from previously conducted risk assessments including threat or vulnerability

While this funding is provided specifically to high-risk nonprofit organizations, the program also seeks to provide funding to integrate nonprofit organizations into preparedness activities with broader state and local preparedness efforts. It is also designed to promote coordination and collaboration of emergency preparedness activities among public and private community representatives, state and local government agencies, and Citizen Corps Councils. Requested funds can also include security-related training courses and programs as well as acquisition and installation of security equipment. Training topics include: protection of critical infrastructure key resources, including physical and cyber security, target hardening, and terrorism awareness/employee preparedness.

Organizations may apply for up to \$75,000 and unlike in previous years, there is **no required monetary match** this year.

The application deadline is March 16. Visit the [NY State Office of Homeland](#)

Those volunteering include representatives from several NYC CCC member organizations, such as [NYC OEM](#), [NY Cares](#), and [CERT](#).

Get additional information about [HOPE 2010](#). Very limited volunteer opportunities are still available.

Ready New York City



In New York City, with its more than 8.2 million diverse residents, the [New York City Office of Emergency Management \(OEM\)](#), the [American Red Cross in Greater New York](#) and the [Ad Council](#) joined together to create the *Ready New York City* PSA campaign designed to educate and empower New Yorkers to prepare for and respond to emergencies including natural and man-made disasters. *Ready New York City* asks individuals to do three key things: 1) get an emergency supply kit, 2) make a family emergency plan, and 3) be informed about the different types of emergencies that could occur and their appropriate responses.

According to a 2009 OEM survey, 40 percent of New Yorkers said they did not feel prepared for an emergency, such as a natural disaster, fire, power outage or act of terrorism. Additionally, 40 percent said they did not have any form of a household emergency plan, and 73 percent did not have all of the recommended emergency supplies.

Additional information can be found at the [Ready New York City website](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

[Security website](#) for grant guidance. Under the terms of the grant, all applicants need to sign up to be a member of the NYC Citizen Corps Council network by e-mailing: citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov.

NYC Citizen Corps Council Youth Program Kickoff



The NYC Citizen Corps Council Youth Program is a new youth-based initiative designed to actively engage high school students in service-learning opportunities through training, exercises, activities, and community outreach.

Working as a team, the participants will create a youth-oriented disaster preparedness training program, coordinate local events, and promote disaster preparedness and response in their schools and broader communities.

Using the resources of the Citizen Corps Council's Youth Task Force, chosen youth will gain practical emergency management and preparedness experience as they make a positive difference in New York City.

Approximately 50 applications were received from a very diverse group of NYC high schoolers by the January 11 deadline. Applicants were from all five boroughs, public and private schools, and fluent in nearly 20 languages.

Following applicant interviews, a group of 20 youth volunteers will kick off the program on Tuesday, February 2.

The NYC Citizen Corps Council Newsletter is being offered for general informational purposes only. Messages are sent through the NYC Citizen Corps Council Newsletter to help members of the public make informed decisions relating to fast-breaking developments. Under the circumstances, the City assumes no duties to registrants or others and disclaims any right for such persons to rely on the system or its messages. Also, no assurances can be made that the messages sent through the NYC Citizen Corps Council Newsletter will be timely, complete or fully accurate or that registrants will receive a particular message

Every day there are hundreds of opportunities for New Yorkers young and old to volunteer and give back to the communities in which they live. The NYC Citizen Corps Council encourages all New Yorkers to volunteer.

>[Learn more about volunteer opportunities in NYC](#)

In addition, through the Hands On Network and the Walt Disney Company, volunteering can come with a little more magic with the Disney's **Give a Day, Get a Disney Day** program. The program celebrates the good work of volunteers by giving each of them a one-day pass to select Disney theme parks. Additional information can be found on the [Give a Day, Get a Day website](#).

NYC Citizen Corps Council



The NYC Citizen Corps Council brings together local leaders from community organizations, government agencies, local elected officials' offices, the private sector, and volunteer programs to promote community preparedness and volunteerism.

For more information about the NYC Citizen Corps Council, its members, and activities, visit our [website](#) or [contact us](#).

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