

GET PREPARED.



GET INVOLVED

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Volunteer Development Program

Trained volunteers that understand how to work together increase our community resiliency. The best time to build this resiliency is now!

The Volunteer Development Program, sponsored by the NYC Citizen Corps Council, wants all NYC disaster volunteers represented at these training.

Below is a list of upcoming training opportunities.

November 18 - Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations

Sponsored by the NYC Medical Reserve Corps, in cooperation with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, this training will discuss considerations one should take while working with people with functional needs during emergencies and disasters.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, November 18, from 5:30 - 8 PM at the Public Health Labs (455 First Avenue, Manhattan).

December 1 - Medical Reserve Corps Orientation

Sponsored by the NYC Medical Reserve Corps this workshop, essential for new Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, is open to both Medical Reserve Corps and non-Medical Reserve Corps volunteers.

In an effort to educate all volunteers about the work of the NYC Medical Reserve Corps, this orientation will provide a background on the organization and the role of its volunteers.

Get Prepared. Get Vaccinated.

As the leaves turn and the air becomes crisp, we are reminded that flu season is here. Seasonal flu, most common during the fall and winter months, affects thousands of New Yorkers each year. It is spread from person to person by droplets from a cough or sneeze. The symptoms, which can last a week or longer, include cough, fever, and body aches.

Influenza is a serious illness and has been associated with an estimated 1,100 deaths annually in New York City and is responsible for 36,000 deaths nationwide. Thousands more are hospitalized every year.

This year, everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine. A dose of flu vaccine every year can reduce the chances of being hospitalized or getting severely ill.

People at high risk for complications from influenza should be vaccinated every year for seasonal influenza. Those groups include:

- Pregnant women
- All health workers
- Anyone six months through 18 years of age
- Anyone 19 through 49 years of age who has an underlying health condition that increases risk
- Adults 50 and older
- Anyone who lives with or cares for infants under six months of age



Get your flu shot today! Find a flu clinic in the city near you using the [Seasonal Flu Vaccine Finder](#).

There are additional steps you can take to prevent the spread of the flu:

- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or the inside of your elbow - not your hand.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- If you get the flu, avoid exposing others.

For additional information about the flu, visit www.NYC.gov/flu or www.flu.gov.

Source: NYC DOHMH

Emergency Preparedness Strategies for People with Special Needs Symposium



On Tuesday, September 21, the NYC Citizen Corps Council and the Home Based Care Task Force held the ***Emergency Preparedness Strategies for People with Special Needs Symposium*** at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

The symposium brought together more than 130 consumers, caregivers, and home care providers to address planning necessary for people who require a higher level of support during an emergency.

The symposium spurred conversation between consumers, caregivers, and providers involved in emergency planning for special needs populations.

Consisting of two parts, the symposium targeted different audiences within the special needs community:

- The morning session, presented by the NYC Citizen Corps Council, was directed toward **consumers and direct care providers**. Through panel and roundtable discussions, the session focused on personal preparedness education, tools to create effective support networks, and addressing barriers and challenges. Expert panelists included Aaron Belisle ([NYC Office of Emergency Management](#)), Judith Ahronheim ([SUNY Downstate Medical Center](#)), Susan Dooha ([Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY](#)), and Tim Elliott ([Self Advocacy Association of New York State](#)).
- The afternoon session, presented by the *Home Based Care Task Force*, was directed toward **administrative level service providers**. The session focused on how a service provider's emergency planning is incorporated into daily interactions with consumers.

Special thanks to the NYC Citizen Corps Council's Special Needs Task Force, [Brooklyn Borough President's Office](#), [Metropolitan College of NY](#), [NYC Department for the Aging](#), [NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#), and the NYC Office of Emergency Management.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 1, from 6 - 7:30 PM at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (125 Worth Street, Manhattan).

December 8 - The International Disaster Volunteer

Sponsored by the NYC Citizen Corps Council, this workshop, held in celebration of International Volunteer Day (December 5), will enlighten NYC volunteers about the work of volunteers deployed internationally in response to disasters.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 8 from 6 - 8 PM at the NYC Office of Emergency Management (165 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn).

To register, e-mail Justin Land at citizencorps@oem.nyc.gov your name, email address, phone number, volunteer organization affiliation, and the title and date of the training you are interested. Space is limited.

Get Involved. NYC Volunteer Organizations

On Tuesday, September 28, more than 60 current and prospective volunteers attended **Get Involved. NYC Volunteer Organizations**. This workshop, hosted by the NYC Citizen Corps Council, focused on the role of volunteer organizations during a disaster response. Ken Curtin ([FEMA](#)) gave a poetic look into the different niches and roles voluntary organizations fill after a disaster. Following Mr. Curtin, Meg Maloney ([New York Cares](#)) moderated a panel discussion with volunteers Ricky Wong ([Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation](#)), Nan Canter ([CERT](#)), and Jon Bloomberg ([Medical Reserve Corps](#)), that provided different perspectives on the life of disaster-oriented volunteers.

Several organizations, including [American Red Cross in Greater New York](#), [AmeriCorps](#), [Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation](#), [CAMBA](#),

McCarren Park Volunteer Project



On Saturday, October 2, the NYC Citizen Corps Council, in cooperation with New York Cares, helped beautify McCarren Park in Williamsburg. In this first-ever joint project, volunteers from [CERT](#), [NYC Office of Emergency Management](#), and [New York Cares](#) worked together in raking leaves, weeding, watering, spreading woodchips, and planting flower bulbs for spring. The goal of this project was to bring together volunteer leaders and staff from different organizations within the NYC Citizen Corps Council network.

Disclaimer

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[CERT](#), [Medical Reserve Corps](#), [New York Cares](#), NYC Office of Emergency Management's Human Services Unit, [NYC Service](#), and [World Cares Center](#) were represented during a tabling session to answer questions about the role of volunteers in their organization and how prospective volunteers can sign up.

NYC Citizen Corps Council Resources

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[2009 - 2010 Outreach Summary](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Event Planning](#)

[Get Involved. NYC Volunteer Opportunities](#)

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