

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2009 – 2010

The New York City Citizen Corps Council (NYC CCC) continued to strengthen community resilience and the City's capacity to prepare all New Yorkers for emergencies from January 2009 to May 2010. The NYC CCC continued to implement successful and popular emergency preparedness outreach initiatives while developing several new innovative programs to reach the City's most vulnerable populations. Through the collaboration of over 60 community organizations, government, private sector, and volunteer programs, the NYC CCC has become a leader in promoting grassroots emergency preparedness in NYC.

The credibility of the NYC CCC is supported by longstanding initiatives, such as the Disaster Volunteer Conference and National Preparedness Month. Through the collaboration of 11 NYC CCC members, the fourth annual Disaster Volunteer Conference, held in May 2010, brought together over 250 NYC disaster volunteers from various NYC volunteer organizations to learn how to remain healthy before, during, and after a disaster response. National Preparedness Month continues to be a busy month for the NYC CCC. In September 2009, the NYC CCC developed emergency preparedness tip sheets and assisted in distributing over 100,000 preparedness guides over the course of the month to New Yorkers.

In addition to longstanding initiatives, the NYC CCC has introduced groundbreaking new programming, such as the Youth Leadership and Volunteer Development Programs, to support the growing need for grassroots emergency preparedness outreach. The Youth Leadership Program, piloted in January 2010, is a semester long program for high school students, designed to educate and engage high school students in emergency management and preparedness, providing them with the tools needed to work together in designing and implementing their own emergency preparedness event aimed at high school aged students. In the pilot, 20 NYC high school students are participating. They come from all five boroughs and know a combined total of 15 different languages. The Volunteer Development Program, piloted in February 2010, offers workshops to NYC disaster volunteers to increase their capacity, allow disaster volunteers from various volunteer organizations to network with each other, and showcase trainings conducted by NYC CCC members. Workshops by five NYC CCC members have been held, reaching approximately 300 NYC disaster volunteers from various NYC volunteer organizations. Participant feedback has been very positive.

The achievements of the NYC CCC are garnered on its ability to be a viable community resource. The extreme need for an innovative grassroots approach to emergency preparedness will always exist. The NYC CCC, through the collaboration of its members and unique reach into the community, continues to be at the forefront of this innovation, in an effort to support the resiliency of NYC.

GOALS, IMPACT, LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

NYC CCC:

Mission: The NYC CCC uses voluntary citizen involvement, through the coordination of interagency resources, to create a culture of preparedness among New York City's most vulnerable populations and to enable individuals citywide to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Impact: NYC CCC News - Initiated in November 2009, this weekly email to NYC CCC members highlights relevant upcoming events, research, best practices, and upcoming NYC CCC meetings in a condensed and efficient format. Information within these emails is often pulled and broadcast through the networks of member organizations.

Impact: NYC Communication Network – A database of approximately 1,500 contacts, who receive quarterly newsletters promoting NYC CCC outreach initiatives and events, NYC CCC members, and well as pertinent outreach updates. Examples of its use were during NYC H1N1 initiatives in Fall 2009 and following the Haiti Earthquakes in Winter 2010.

Impact: 2009 National Preparedness Month (NPM) - In September 2009, the NYC CCC joined NYC OEM in distributing Ready NY preparedness guides and hand sanitizer at pedestrian-heavy sites across NYC, including Times Square where Secretary Napolitano announced a new emergency preparedness Ad Council campaign. Volunteers gave out more than 100,000 preparedness guides and 30,000 bottles of hand sanitizer throughout the five boroughs. In addition, each NYC CCC taskforce developed two-page tip sheets in multiple languages that were also passed out at NPM events.

Impact: Staff Additions – In September 2009, NYC OEM hired a full-time community outreach coordinator to manage the NYC CCC program. In addition, in February 2010, NYC OEM hired a full-time cross cultural outreach coordinator to liaise with the NYC CCC's Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Taskforce. These staff additions have enabled NYC OEM to more effectively support the outreach initiatives of the NYC CCC.

Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Taskforce:

Mission: The Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Taskforce plans and executes activities with relevant stakeholders, to better enable communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Impact: Brooklyn Borough Hall Preparedness Event – In September 2009, held an emergency preparedness fair for immigrants and limited English proficient communities at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Information was distributed in English, French, Haitian Creole, Spanish, and Russian.

Impact: Ready NY Foreign Language Training – In March 2009, conducted a Ready New York Presenter training. Fifteen multilingual individuals completed the training, increasing Ready New York's ability to do emergency preparedness presentations in French, Haitian Creole, and Spanish.

Special Needs Taskforce:

Mission: The Special Needs Taskforce provides opportunities and support that enables and improves how people with special needs prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Impact: Pandemic Flu Exercise – In June 2009, assisted the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to incorporate the provision of special needs in a point of dispensing exercise.

Disaster Volunteer Taskforce:

Mission: The Disaster Volunteer Taskforce builds capacity amongst NYC CCC volunteer organizations and NYC's disaster volunteer community.

Impact: 2009 Disaster Volunteer Conference – In May 2009, 200 volunteers from eight volunteer organizations attended this conference. The conference was entitled *Leadership and Cross-Agency Collaboration*.

Impact: 2010 Disaster Volunteer Conference – In May 2010, 250 volunteers from eight volunteer organizations attended this conference. The conference, entitled *Surviving Help: Volunteering in a Healthy Way*, brought together leaders from volunteer, faith-based, and medical communities to discuss how volunteers can remain healthy before, during, and after a disaster response.

Impact: Volunteer Development Program – Initiated in February 2010, this program offers workshops to NYC disaster volunteers to increase the capacity of NYC disaster volunteers, allow disaster volunteers from various disaster volunteer organizations to network with each other, and showcase trainings conducted by NYC CCC members.

Youth Taskforce:

Mission: The Youth Taskforce focuses on outreach and engagement of high school aged youth to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Impact: Youth Leadership Program – Piloted in Spring 2010, this innovative 10 week program is designed to educate and engage high school students in emergency management and preparedness. It provides them with the tools needed to work together in designing and implementing their own emergency preparedness event aimed at high school aged students.

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