

National Institute of Health Supplemental Funding Strengthens TNEC-CSEA - cont'd

The additional funds supported three projects of TNEC-CSEA's Hazardous Waste Worker Training (HWWT) and Hazmat (Hazardous Materials) Disaster Preparedness Training (HDPT) Programs. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Training Program (NIEHS WTP) has supported the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) since 1987 and UML oversees the TNEC-CSEA project.

NIEHS unveiled the HDPTP in 2005 to incorporate lessons learned in response to national disasters and the September 11 terrorist attacks. TNEC-CSEA initiated its own HDPT program in 2010. The supplements enabled TNEC-CSEA to expand its work and create a Latino-Brazilian HazMat Disaster Preparedness Training effort. The intention of this program is to create a cadre of bilingual trainers with the capacity to instruct immigrant workers likely to participate in post-storm disaster recovery, clean up and rebuilding efforts. Additionally, the project sought to build three training partnerships for public sector employees in Massachusetts in government agencies. The partnership includes the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES) and the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 6 AFL-CIO. Each of these partners helped coordinate access to municipal and state workers who need Post Disaster Response Health and Safety Training. TNEC-CSEA provided additional confined space entry courses for MIIA member communities and several training sessions geared to meet the health and safety needs of managers and supervisors

MassCOSH coordinates the Latino-Brazilian HazMat Disaster Preparedness Training initiative of five different immigrant worker centers: Centro Comunitario de Trabajadores (CCT) in New Bedford, MA, Fuerza Laboral in Central Falls, RI, the Brazilian Worker Center (BWC) in Greater Boston, MetroWest Worker Center serving Central Massachusetts, and MassCOSH's center base in East Boston. Each of the centers identified one or two staff members to attend a training of trainers to prepare them to deliver 'muck and gut' health and safety training for post-disaster cleanup and recovery.

The final project is supporting CSEA to conduct an evaluation and assessment that measures how effective its implementation of e-learning tools for training is in helping members and their local communities build their skills for disaster response, recovery and resiliency. CSEA established an e-learning platform using Moodle to provide ready access to health and safety resources for its peer-trainers and trainees.

TNEC-CSEA's HDPTP focuses on public sector workers who will be engaged in disaster response, recovery, and remediation and rebuilding efforts, most often as skilled support personnel. It also looks at the role of sanitation workers. Increasing access to training for immigrant workers in post-disaster activities is another vital preparedness strategy.

CSEA recently announced the launch of their first app, **The Cleanup Safety Pocket Guide**, originally created as a handbook. Due to the severe weather patterns and flooding in Baton Rouge and

weather related disasters in Wisconsin and Iowa CSEA moved up the launch of the app. This free app is available on iTunes and the Google Play store.