Welcome - WTP’s Response to COVID-19 Recovery Center Launch

Sharon D. Beard, Acting Director
NIEHS Worker Training Program
Email: beard1@niehs.nih.gov
NIH/NIEHS WTP COVID-19 Virtual Safety Training Initiative

WTP received $10 million from the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020

Goal: To increase health and safety awareness for responders and workers who face potential exposure to COVID-19

Training Initiative Objectives:

- Identify key evidence-based methods to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in workplaces providing essential services
- Create a virtual training platform for frontline healthcare, responders, law enforcement, environmental and critical service workers
- Build a cadre of virtual safety trainers / advisors to deliver remote training via advanced training technology to frontline workers
COVID-19 Recovery Centers (NOT-ES-21-002) – Welcome

- As of April 2021, NIEHS has 8 COVID-19 Recovery Centers
  - Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Consortium
  - Western Region Universities Consortium
  - New Jersey/New York Hazardous Materials Worker Training Center
  - Sustainable Workplace Alliance
  - The New England Consortium-Civil Service Employees
  - International Chemical Workers Union Council Center for Worker Health and Safety Education
  - Historically Black Colleges and Universities Consortium
  - Steelworkers Charitable Educational Organization / Tony Mazzocchi Center

- The Centers will assess COVID-19 health risks, train essential workers, and coordinate resources needed to reduce disease transmission and promote recovery in disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- Produces high-quality curricula using appropriate language, cultural, and literacy considerations.

COVID-19 – Milestones and Weekly Meetings/Reporting

• Executive Order 13996: Establishing the COVID-19 Pandemic Testing Board and Ensuring a Sustainable Public Health Workforce for COVID-19 and Other Biological Threats
  – Directive within EO: Establishing a Public Health Workforce Program
  – A-3 Summary of Directive: Strengthen the response workforce by bolstering the training, tools, and support for testing, contact tracing, and vaccination efforts

• Executive Order 13999: Protecting Worker Safety and Health
  – C-1 Summary of Directive: Develop science-based guidance and mitigation strategies to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace

• Executive Order 13999: Protecting Worker Safety and Health
  – Directive within EO: Establish plans for standards, oversight, and outreach related to workforce safety
  – C-3 Summary of Directive: Issue revised guidance for employers and enforcement priorities for regulators to protect workers from COVID-19 and anti-retaliatory action.
NIEHS WTP Funds Organizations Using Coronavirus Congressional Appropriations

$6.6 M Awarded through 36 Supplemental Grants

Grant-Supported Activities:

- **Extensive training on COVID-19** health and safety, personal protective equipment, resiliency/mental health, and trainer development to *essential and returning* worker populations
- New/adapted *curricula tailored* to specific worker populations
- Expanding *on-line/blended/technology-enhanced curricula*
- Technology development such as mobile-friendly training modules, and virtual simulations
- Establish WTP COVID-19 Recovery Centers for promoting health, safety, and recovery training for COVID-19 Essential Workers and their Communities