



DISASTER RECOVERY

NYDIS and its members work to increase community resilience and promote the development and coordination of effective recovery programs. These programs embody our member faith communities' commitment to sustainable recovery in multiple areas, including supporting caregivers, advocating for the rights of victims, and working to ensure short- and long-term financial, mental, and spiritual stability for all survivors of disaster.

Survivors and victims' families need recovery programs and support services long after the traditional means of receiving government benefits are exhausted. Many who were impacted economically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually continue to struggle with the day-to-day process of recovery for months or years.

RECOVERY PROGRAMS

These programs help unite the disaster-impacted community, facilitate the sharing of long-term recovery resources, and keep victims' needs in the public eye. NYDIS provides these services in collaboration with our members and expert providers.

- **ADVOCACY WORKING GROUPS:** NYDIS convenes forums for faith-based organizations and partner agencies to meet regularly for sharing information, advancing broad-based advocacy to aid in the recovery of disaster survivors, and addressing the needs of residents of impacted communities.
- **CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER:** Post-disaster, NYDIS provides support groups for chaplains, clergy, and religious leaders who often experience compassion fatigue as a result of providing pastoral care. NYDIS develops, supports, and funds programs designed to foster caregiver wellness and promote self-care.
- **CASEWORKER SUPPORT GROUPS:** NYDIS provides support groups to caseworkers and their supervisors whose professional lives are often dominated by the triggers that cause compassion fatigue and the stress of long-term recovery. These support groups offer opportunities to lessen caseworkers' fatigue and promote self-care.
- **CLERGY COUNCILS:** These interfaith forums for religious leaders from houses of worship directly impacted by disasters ensure that they have input into the recovery and rebuilding needs of their members and neighborhoods.
- **CONFERENCES:** NYDIS facilitates conferences and workshops to educate disaster human services providers on emerging unmet needs and the recovery of special needs populations. NYDIS also provides forums for the care and resilience of clergy and religious leaders as well as staff and professionals from partner agencies.
- **INTERFAITH DISCUSSION GROUPS:** Representatives of different faith communities come together to establish common ground and increase mutual understanding and resilience in the aftermath of disaster.

HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK (HSC)

NYDIS, a standing member of HSC, has a Memorandum of Understanding to partner with HSC on case management coordination following a disaster. The HSC *Human Service Sector Disaster Plan* defines the principle recovery role of NYDIS as administering the NYC Unmet Needs Roundtables.



NEW YORK CITY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NYC OEM)

NYDIS maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with NYC OEM that defines NYDIS's operational role in relief and recovery efforts. Some NYDIS roles include staffing Disaster Assistance Service Centers for unmet needs assessment, administering Unmet Needs Roundtables, and coordinating member recovery efforts.



NEW YORK CITY UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables bring together donors and casework agencies to financially assist those impacted by a disaster, provide emergency assistance, and ensure survivors' sustainable long-term recovery when all other means of assistance are exhausted. NYDIS maintains an unmet needs fund to manage donations by corporations and organizations. NYC Roundtables are coordinated with Roundtables in Long Island and New Jersey. (See Unmet Needs Roundtables Program Profile.)



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NEW YORK CITY 9/11 RECOVERY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Years after the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, recovery needs continue to be significant, especially amongst the 9/11 health-impacted population. Despite EPA assurances that the air was safe after 9/11, over 9,000 rescue, recovery, and clean-up workers as well as volunteers and community members currently have physical and/or mental illnesses directly related to physical and/or psychological exposures at the World Trade Center site. For some 9/11 health-impacted persons, these illnesses cause disability, resulting in loss of work, income, health insurance, and the ability to support themselves and their families.

NYDIS currently coordinates and administers an array of programs designed to address the unmet needs of 9/11-impacted persons. These programs include:



- **NYC 9/11 UNMET NEEDS ROUNDTABLE:** The NYC 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable brings together donors and case management agencies to financially assist persons impacted by 9/11 and their families, provide emergency assistance, and facilitate long-term recovery when all other means of assistance are no longer available. Since its inception in 2002, the Roundtable has distributed over **\$7.5 million** in cash assistance and vouchers to meet the unmet needs of over **4,600** 9/11-impacted persons and their families.
- **COORDINATED 9/11 CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES:** After the 9/11 United Services Group closed in 2005, NYDIS began coordinating 9/11 case management services. NYDIS now coordinates these services via case review protocols, monthly case management coordination meetings, and continuing education trainings for 9/11 case managers and their supervisors.
- **9/11 CASE MANAGEMENT SUB-GRANTS:** Since 2006, NYDIS has provided up to seven sub-grants a year to community-based case management agencies to fund case managers who provide long-term recovery assistance and 9/11 Unmet Needs Roundtable presentation services to 9/11-impacted persons and their families.
- **9/11 RECOVERY WORKER COORDINATED ASSISTANCE NETWORK (9/11 RWCAN):** In 2006, NYDIS began administering 9/11 RWCAN, a specially formatted web-based database designed to promote information sharing and coordination of services for WTC rescue, recovery, and clean-up workers. Using 9/11 RWCAN, 9/11 case managers are able to coordinate their efforts for the purposes of increasing interagency collaboration, mitigating against the duplication of services, and streamlining the referral of services through the formation of a central resource database.
- **RECOVERY WORKER VOUCHER PROGRAM:** NYDIS funds this program, which provides Metrocards to the Mount Sinai World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program to aid patients in their medical and mental health treatment by ensuring access to transportation for appointments.
- **OTHER CURRENT NYDIS-FACILITATED 9/11 RECOVERY PROGRAMS:**
 - **9/11 Mental Health “Task Force” on mental health services for 9/11 responders**
 - **“Caregiver Resiliency Group” at Mount Sinai World Trade Center Mental Health Program**
 - **Lower Manhattan Clergy Council**



PAST RECOVERY EFFORTS:

- **NYC Katrina Evacuee Unmet Needs Roundtable - 2005-2007**
- **Astoria, Queens Blackout - July 2006**
- **Upstate NY Flooding - July 2006**
- **Staten Island Nor'easter - Spring 2007**
- **Brooklyn Tornado - August 2007**
- **Maspeth, Queens Flooding - August 2007**
- **Upper East Side Crane Collapse - March 2008**

NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES

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FAITH COMMUNITIES BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR READINESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

