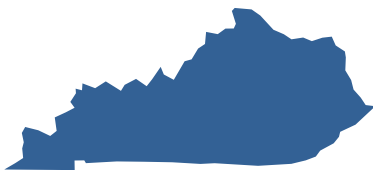




Worker Training Program: Kentucky

A National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund-Related Activity

The NIEHS Worker Training Program (WTP) annually funds training for about 2,300 workers through more than 600 health and safety courses in Kentucky. Recipients of NIEHS WTP grants lead trainings to prepare workers to handle hazardous materials and respond to disasters in their communities.



Courses include:

- Basic Superfund Site Worker and Site Worker Refresher
- Hazardous Waste Operations Awareness
- Basic Industrial Emergency Responder Operations
- Hospital Emergency Room Operations
- Asbestos Abatement
- Hazardous Material Transportation
- General Construction Safety and General Industry Safety
- Hazard Communication
- Personal Protective Equipment Awareness
- Infectious Disease Awareness

Training Highlights

Training First Responders

WTP grantee OAI, Inc. partners with the Kentucky Division of Fire Prevention and Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM) to bring HazMat training to rural areas across the state. The partners train first responders and law enforcement personnel on handling emergencies and hazardous materials incidents.



Photo courtesy of OAI, Inc.

In 2021, KYEM and OAI presented 28 online courses on hazardous material response and confined space awareness to 223 personnel in Kentucky. The courses were timely, as in the same year community responders applied the training to deal with major floods and the mile-wide Western Kentucky tornado that caused catastrophic damage over a hundred miles in the state.

Hazardous Material and Emergency Response Training for Workers

For over 20 years, YouthBuild Louisville has delivered worker training to reduce risk of exposure to hazardous materials for people ages 18 to 24. Programs are also provided to other individuals, for-profit and not-for-profit companies and organizations, and state and local government agencies. Course recipients include students in career vocational



Photo courtesy of Louisville USACE

About the Worker Training Program

WTP funds nonprofit organizations to provide health and safety training for workers who may be exposed to hazardous materials and waste at work or while assisting with emergency response. WTP was initiated under the Hazardous Substance Basic Research and Training Program authorized by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 USC 9660a).

Under these NIEHS Superfund-related activities, WTP grantees provide trainings across the country through the [Hazardous Waste](#), [Hazmat Disaster](#), and [Environmental Career Worker Training Programs](#).

For more information, visit www.niehs.nih.gov/wtp.

training and employees of the U.S. Geologic Survey, the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, and the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District.

Additionally, YouthBuild Louisville has helped workers identify and remediate hazards associated with natural disasters and other emergencies. Volunteer preparedness training was provided to staff and students who were deployed for cleanup efforts after the 2021 tornado. YouthBuild Louisville is part of the Midwest Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training, funded out of the University of Minnesota, a WTP grantee.



Photos courtesy of YouthBuild Louisville

Empowering Workers to Make Change

Training by the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), a WTP grantee, has led to worker empowerment and improved safety culture at a company in Kentucky.

In 2018, workers from a motor vehicle parts manufacturer based in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, attended a UAW-sponsored training. Soon after the training, a labor-management partnership called Safety Champions was established to discuss health and safety issues and develop plans for corrective actions. Workers in Safety Champions can identify concerns because they are on the factory floor every day. They regularly meet with a management group to document health and safety concerns and set deadlines for addressing any issues. The partnership has led to many safety improvements at the company.

Nuclear Worker Training

Several grantees funded by the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program facilitate health and safety training for cleanup, waste management, and emergency response at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons and waste sites. In Kentucky, more than 900 workers of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (PGDP) are trained annually.

The United Steelworkers (USW) Tony Mazzocchi Center developed a Resource Conservation Recovery Act training curriculum at the request of PGDP workers from a local union. The safety curriculum was developed with input from the workers. USW conducts more than 850 hours of training annually at or near Paducah.

Management representatives from the plant reported that the courses enabled participants to discuss previously unreported issues and allowed managers to take actions, creating a healthier and safer workplace, such as providing better-fitting personal protective equipment.

CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training conducts about 100 hours of training annually at PGDP in courses such as Asbestos Abatement Supervisor, General Construction Safety, and Mold Remediation.

“This class was very informative and helpful. I have been a union member for six years and this class taught me new tips for the job I have not heard before,” said a construction worker who attended a CPWR asbestos training in Kentucky.



Photo courtesy of USW

Overall Training

The following WTP grantees have trained workers in Kentucky:

- International Association of Fire Fighters
- United Steelworkers of America
- New England Consortium
- Midwest Consortium
- Laborers’ International Union of North America
- International Union, United Auto Workers
- CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training
- OAI, Inc.
- Texas-Utah Consortium for Hazardous Waste Worker Training
- Emory University
- Duke University
- Biosafety and Infectious Disease Training Initiative