

Building Resilience in the Face of Disaster

New York Life Request for Proposals

June 1, 2018

Funding Opportunity

Due to the unprecedented number of natural disasters and tragedies in 2017 and 2018, New York Life has identified the urgent need to support nonprofit organizations that are working with children, adults, families and communities that have been impacted by these events. New York Life is launching a grant program, in partnership with the Change in Mind Institute (CiM) at the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities (Alliance) to provide financial support to organizations that have the capacity and expertise to provide long-term trauma and grief support in geographic areas impacted by major weather disasters in 2017¹, including Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma and the California Wildfires²; and significant human-made tragedies that have occurred in the last year and a half³, including Las Vegas, NV, Sutherland Springs, TX, and Parkland, FL. This is a one-time grant opportunity. Access the [online application](#).

Timeline

Informational webinar: **June 6, 2018 2:00 – 3:00 PM (CST)**

Deadline for receipt of full proposals: **July 13, 2018 11:59 PM (CST)**

Announce grant awards: **August 22, 2018**

Grant awards begin: **September 3, 2018**

Grant period for grantees ends: **September 1, 2019**

Final reports from grantees submitted: **October 1, 2019**

¹ <https://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2017/10/18/2017-could-tie-record-billion-dollar-disasters-year-heres-why/763406001/>

² Eligible organizations will be providing services in [FEMA designated counties](#) for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria (Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and the California Wildfires. Please see Appendix B of this RFP for a list of FEMA designated counties.

³ <https://www.cnn.com/2017/11/07/health/deadliest-mass-shootings-columbine-in-modern-us-history-trnd/index.html>

Informational Webinar and FAQs

An informational webinar will be held June 6, 2018 at 2:00-3:00 PM (central time). Click here to [register for the webinar](#). By June 13th, 2018, a full list of answers to frequently asked questions will be posted to the application website, and will be updated regularly.

Contact Information

For additional information please contact:

Jennifer Jones, Director

Change in Mind Institute

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

(414) – 335-0621

changeinmind@alliance1.org

For technical questions on the online application, email research@alliance1.org

Background

In 2017, in the United States, there were 16 weather related disasters with losses exceeding \$1 billion each, and a cumulative cost of \$306.2 billion, the largest on record. Of those, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria accounted for \$283 billion. Overall, these events resulted in thousands of deaths and significant economic loss in the communities impacted.⁴ During 2017, and early 2018, the United States also experienced three of its ten deadliest mass shootings in history. Since 2009, the U.S. has had 288 school shootings, which is 57 times more than the G7 countries⁵ combined.⁶

Whether natural or human-made, disasters have the potential of affecting the long-term health and well-being of individuals and communities in which they occur. Research findings on specific disasters like floods and mass shootings show that each can have unique consequences for the emotional and behavioral health of survivors. Traumatic events such as hurricanes, and mass gun violence can harm children’s physical and mental health, as well as their sense of safety and security.⁷ The effects of traumatic stress after mass violence, terror, or human-made disasters range from common expressions of resiliency to suffering, feelings of grief, and

⁴ NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (2018) <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

⁵ Canada, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, United Kingdom, and the United States.

⁶ CNN, May 21, 2018. https://www.cnn.com/2018/05/21/us/school-shooting-us-versus-world-trnd/index.html?utm_source=CN+Five+Things&utm_campaign=0645e182a6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_05_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6da287d761-0645e182a6-90467953

⁷ Kousky, C. Impacts of National Disasters on Children. The Future of Children. Vol. 26, No. 1. Spring 2016. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1101425.pdf>

experiences of significant loss, and trauma from those who have witnessed the experience.⁸ Most major disasters have been followed by increases in mental illness, domestic violence, and substance abuse.⁹ However, health officials and emergency responders typically focus on physical illness and injury.¹⁰ Low-income and minority communities are more vulnerable to the risks of natural disasters, and it often takes significantly longer for them to recover. According to researchers, “during a time of increased concerns about income inequality and climate change risk, natural disaster exposure risk could become another cause of rising quality of life inequality between the rich and the poor.”¹¹

Project Purpose

To help address these profound and significant issues, New York Life will offer, through the Change in Mind Institute, a broad funding initiative targeting trauma-informed and grief services and supports in geographic areas impacted by major weather disasters in 2017¹², including Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma and the California Wildfires¹³; and significant human-made tragedies that have occurred in the last year and a half¹⁴, including Las Vegas, NV, Sutherland Springs, TX, and Parkland, FL

The New York Life grant program, including financial support and guidance to grantees as they implement their identified approaches, aims to ensure that children and families receive much-needed assistance, while expanding the knowledge base in the field of post-disaster interventions and services. Examples of programs that could be considered for funding, include mental health and substance abuse services that can be employed following a disaster, increasing the capacity of community mental health workers to provide services and supports post-disaster, especially in locations where there is a shortage of mental health therapists, reducing rates of substance abuse after a disaster, and evidence-informed interventions that build coping and resilience (see Appendix A of this RFP for a list of resources).

⁸ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. National Center for PTSD. Effects of Traumatic Stress After Mass Violence, Terror, or Disaster. <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/trauma/disaster-terrorism/stress-mv-t-dhtml.asp>

⁹ Galea, S., Brewin, C.R., Gruber, M., et al, Exposure to hurricane-related stressors and mental illness after Hurricane Katrina. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2007; 64:1427-34.

¹⁰ Yun, K., Lurie, N., Hyde, P.S. Moving mental health into disaster-preparedness spotlight. *New England Journal of Medicine Perspective*. September 23, 2010; 1193-1195

¹¹ Boustan, L.P., Kahn, M.E., Rhode, P.W., & Yanguas, M.L. (2017). The Effect of Natural Disasters on Economic Activity in U.S. Counties: A Century of Data. (NBER Working Paper No. 23410). Retrieved from the National Bureau of Economic Research website <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23410.pdf>

¹² <https://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2017/10/18/2017-could-tie-record-billion-dollar-disasters-year-heres-why/763406001/>

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About New York Life

[New York Life Insurance Company](#), a Fortune 100 company founded in 1845, is one of the largest mutual life insurance companies in the United States and one of the largest life insurers in the world. With a mission of helping people achieve financial security throughout their lives, New York Life's family of companies offers life insurance, retirement income, investments and long-term care insurance.

About Change in Mind Institute at The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

[The Change in Mind Institute](#) at the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities aims to increase the common understanding of the core story of brain development and integrate this knowledge into the social and public sectors. We believe through continuous innovation and alignment of practice and policy with knowledge, research, and evidence on how the brain develops, we will enhance the skills and capacities we all need to be healthy, happy, and contributing citizens. The Change in Mind Institute operates as a hub for disseminating knowledge, provides training and technical assistance on the integration of brain science research, and engages in cross-sector innovation on the transformation of organizations, sectors, and systems as they adapt to the new applications of the science.

[The Alliance for Strong Families and Communities](#) is a strategic action network of thousands of committed social sector leaders who through their excellence, distinction, and influence are working to achieve a healthy and equitable society. We aggregate the very best sector knowledge and serve as an incubator for learning and innovation to generate new solutions to the toughest problems. We accelerate change through dynamic leadership development and collective actions to ensure policies and systems provide equal access and opportunity for all people in our nation to reach their fullest potential through improvements in health and well-being, educational success, economic opportunity, and safety and security.

Eligibility Criteria

Organizations must demonstrate the capacity to successfully and effectively administer the grant, and have experience with trauma-informed care and/or grief services and supports. Each successful grantee can apply for a maximum grant award of \$50,000.

- Applicants must be a community-based nonprofit organization (i.e. service provider, faith-based, coalition, etc.).
- Applicant organizations must be either public entities or nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Applicant organizations must be based in and deliver direct services in the areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, and Irma; the California Wildfires; and Las Vegas, NV, Sutherland Springs, TX, and Parkland, FL.

Selection Process

An independent selection committee comprised of representatives from the affected communities, academia, nonprofit organizations, New York Life, and other experts in trauma/grief/loss support for communities hit by disasters and tragedy will review and score all grant applications individually and together as a committee. The committee reserves the right to request additional information as needed from the organizations to help inform their decisions. The selection committee has responsibility for making the final decision on the grant awards.

Appendix A

Resources

[Balancing ACEs with HOPE \(Health Outcomes of Positive Experiences\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.](#)

[Community Resilience: Is it Greater Than the Sum of the Parts of Individual Resilience?](#)

[Disasters Through the Lens of Disparities: Elevate Community Resilience as an Essential Public Health Service.](#)

[FEMA Disaster Declarations](#)

[Getting Actionable about Community Resilience: The Los Angeles County Community Disaster Resilience Project.](#)

[Exploring Approaches and Strategies for Human Services and Child-Serving Institutions to Promote Resiliency and Recovery for Children and Youth Affected by Natural Disasters: A Report of the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters.](#)

[Healthy, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities After Disasters.](#)

[New York Life Foundation](#)

[Predicting Community Resilience and Recovery After a Disaster](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA)

- [Disaster Preparedness](#)
- [Greater Impact: How Disasters Affect People of Low Socioeconomic Status.](#)
- [Trauma and Violence Resources](#)
- [Disaster Behavioral Health Interventions Inventory](#)

[Traumatic Loss and Major Disasters: Strengthening Family and Community Resilience.](#)

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.](#)

[Why Community Matters Most in Community Recovery to Disaster.](#)

Appendix B

FEMA Designated Counties

Eligible counties/islands for the purposes of this RFP are:

California¹⁵

Butte

Lake

Mendocino

Napa

Nevada

Orange

Sonoma

Yuba

Florida¹⁶

Alachua

Baker

Bradford

Brevard

Broward

Charlotte

Citrus

Clay

Collier

Columbia

DeSoto

¹⁵ California Wildfires <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4344>

¹⁶ Hurricane Irma <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4337>

Dixie
Duval
Flagler
Gilchrist
Glades
Hamilton
Hardee
Hendry
Hernando
Highlands
Hillsborough
Indian River
Lafayette
Lake
Lee
Levy
Manatee
Marion
Martin
Miami-Dade
Monroe
Nassau
Okeechobee
Orange
Osceola
Palm Beach
Pasco
Pinellas
Polk

Putnam

Sarasota

Seminole

St. Johns

St. Lucia

Sumter

Suwannee

Union

Volusia

Seminal Tribe of Florida¹⁷

Big Cypress Indian Reservation

Brighton Indian Reservation

Fort Pierce Indian Reservation

Hollywood Indian Reservation

Immokalee Indian Reservation

Tampa Reservation

Georgia¹⁸

Camden

Charlton

Chatham

Coffee

Glynn

Liberty

McIntosh

¹⁷ Hurricane Irma <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4341>

¹⁸ Hurricane Irma <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4338>

Puerto Rico

Hurricane Irma¹⁹

Canovanas

Catano

Culebra

Dorado

Fajardo

Loiza

Luquillo

Toa Baja

Vega Baja

Vieques

Hurricane Maria²⁰

All counties in Puerto Rico

Texas²¹

Aransas

Austin

Bastrop

Bee

Brazoria

Caldwell

Calhoun

Chambers

Colorado

DeWitt

¹⁹ Hurricane Irma <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4336>

²⁰ Hurricane Maria <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4339>

²¹ Hurricane Harvey <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4332>

Fayette
Fort Bend
Galveston
Goliad
Gonzales
Grimes
Hardin
Harris
Jackson
Jasper
Jefferson
Karnes
Kleberg
Lavaca
Lee
Liberty
Matagorda
Montgomery
Newton
Nueces
Orange
Polk
Refugio
Sabine
San Jacinto
San Patricio
Tyler
Victoria
Walker

Waller

Wharton

U.S. Virgin Islands

Hurricane Irma²²

St. John Island

St. Thomas Island

Hurricane Maria²³

St. Croix Island

St. John Island

St. Thomas Island

²² Hurricane Irma <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4335>

²³ Hurricane Maria <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4340>