

## **Charge to STAC regarding the new youth research cohort being established by the World Trade Center Health Program**

In December 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023<sup>1</sup> amended sec. 3341 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act to direct the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education, to establish a new research cohort to conduct future research studies on the health and educational impacts of “*exposure to airborne toxins, or any other hazard or adverse condition, resulting from the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including on the population of individuals who were 21 years of age or younger at the time of exposure, including such individuals who are screening-eligible WTC survivors or certified-eligible WTC survivors.*”<sup>2</sup>

The cohort may include individuals who were 21 years of age or younger on September 11, 2001, who were located outside the New York City Disaster Area (NYCDA)<sup>3</sup> and in Manhattan not further north than 14th Street; or anywhere within the borough of Brooklyn. Additionally, the cohort may include age-appropriate control populations as needed for research purposes.

The Administrator proposes a following phased approach for establishing the youth cohort consisting of four phases, which will be explained at the meeting.

The Administrator seeks advice from the STAC regarding:

1. The proposed four-phase approach for establishing the youth cohort, including the sufficiency of community involvement;
2. Potential partnerships for establishing the youth cohort;
3. Ideas regarding outreach, recruitment, retention, and project oversight; and
4. Anticipated barriers to forming a cohort that can adequately support future research studies, for example, representativeness, insufficient statistical power, information biases, and selection biases, and any potential strategies that address those barriers.

The STAC will also receive an update on the revisions made to the *Policy and Procedures for Adding Non-Cancer Health Conditions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions* following the STAC’s recommendations at their meeting on February 9, 2023. The presentation will detail further revisions made to the *Policy and Procedures* in response to recommendations of the STAC. The Administrator will request the STAC’s concurrence with the revised *Policy and Procedures* so it can be finalized for implementation.

Finally, the Administrator would appreciate the STAC’s suggestions of peer reviewers for proposed additions to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Pub. L. 117-328 (Dec. 29, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> WTC survivors include individuals who lived, worked, went to school, or attended child or adult day care in the NYC Disaster Area on September 11, 2001, or in the following days, weeks, or months and those otherwise meeting the eligibility criteria in 42 CFR 88.7 or 88.8.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.cdc.gov/define.html>.