

## **NEW YORK**

### **Highlights of State Council Activities**

Governor George Pataki designated the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission as the New York State Citizen Corps Council. The New York State Citizen Corps initiative includes promoting Citizen Corps at the state level, establishing statewide partnerships, conducting public information and outreach campaigns, managing and reporting on grants, and conducting Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer Courses.

Local Councils provided training, supported local exercises and utilized their volunteers in a myriad of programs. Through the federally funded Citizen Corps program, New York State made 95 awards totaling \$3,260,442.56 during fiscal years 2002 to 2005. Citizen Corps funding was distributed on a competitive basis in which local jurisdictions submitted proposals outlining proposed Citizen Corps activities. Proposals were ranked according to Citizen Corps program objectives and funding was awarded accordingly. In 2005, New York State distributed \$533,253.00 among 13 jurisdictions who were awarded funding to support their programs. It should be noted, however, that due to funding constraints, many of the local Citizen Corps Councils conduct active programs without funding from the state.

### **Highlights of State Activities**

#### **Public Education and Outreach**

Local Citizen Corps Councils conducted awareness campaigns, including the New York Citizen Corps "Ready New York" program, and participated in several public education and outreach efforts throughout the year. For example, in the Town of Clifton Park and Saratoga County, Citizen Corps and CERT volunteers sponsored the Town's National Night Out Against Crime - "Shootout at the Common Corral." During this exhibition basketball game between local law enforcement and the town, volunteers distributed materials about their program in a continuous recruitment effort. In Nassau County, volunteers distributed 4,500 citizen preparedness and mitigation publications.

#### **Training and Exercises**

The New York State Emergency Management Office, which houses the state's Citizen Corps program, conducted two CERT Train-the-Trainer Courses to support local programs with 60 participants completing the training.

In Nassau County, 609 citizens participated in disaster response and recovery training, 73 citizens were trained in community preparedness and family safety and 351 volunteers were trained in CERT.

Clifton Park CERT sponsored a National Guard Training/Demonstration by the local Weapons of Mass Destruction/Civil Support Team. During the demonstration, the team displayed Disaster

Bio Response CERT Mass Decontamination procedures, air hazard measuring devices, and portable labs. The CERT Team also sponsored a HAZMAT major incident tabletop exercise for local emergency responders, which focused on evacuation issues and decision making protocols.

### **Volunteer Programs and Support**

Partnerships with NY State Department of Health, NY State Commission on National & Community Service, NY State Education Department, and the financial support of the National Corporation for National and Community Service brought about several events in 2005. Citizen Corps recruited and trained 667 Leadership Volunteers throughout NY State to serve and recruit additional volunteers in the field of emergency preparedness and response. The program provided federal sub-grants of more than \$560,000 directly to local non-profit agencies to recruit, train and recognize new volunteers active in emergency preparedness and response.

### **Support for Hurricane Katrina Response**

Throughout New York, state and local Citizen Corps activities helped make a difference for the more than 4,000 evacuees hosted by New York. The state Citizen Corps Council established a toll free number to accept and manage volunteers and donations from residents and completed a plan for managing spontaneous volunteers in the event a large scale response was requested.

New York City Citizen Corps sent six marine-rescue-trained CERT members to Annapolis, MD to retrieve 20 rescue boats and transport them to Louisiana. The boats arrived in New Orleans and the team was assigned to search and rescue. Cortlandt Citizen Corps Council partnered with their local Red Cross chapter to provide assistance with the registration and processing of evacuees at Camp Smith in Dutchess County. The New York City Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with the American Red Cross of Greater New York, opened a Disaster Assistance Service Center to serve evacuees' needs, including housing, clothing and financial recovery. Suffolk County CERT members assisted their local emergency operations center by answering phone calls from citizens interested in volunteering or donating items.

### **National Preparedness Month**

In September, Governor Pataki issued a proclamation urging all citizens to be more involved and aware, and to prepare themselves and their families for disaster events. The New York State Emergency Management Office, in collaboration with the other NYS agencies such as: NYS Office of Homeland Security, NYS Dept. of Health, NYS Division of State Police, NYS Thruway Authority, NYS Dept. of Transportation, and the American Red Cross, developed the brochure "Plan to be Prepared, New York State Emergency Tips" and distributed approximately 2,000 copies to the public. The brochure provided citizens with the actions they can take to become better prepared to protect themselves and their families, to develop an emergency plan and to prepare a portable emergency supply kit.