


PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS FUND: HURRICANE IDA RECOVERY FINAL REPORT

**\$100,000 DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY
TO PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS
IMPACTED BY HURRICANE IDA**



[BIT.LY/PHWFUND](https://bit.ly/phwfund)





We received 828 applications from 21 parishes throughout Southeast Louisiana

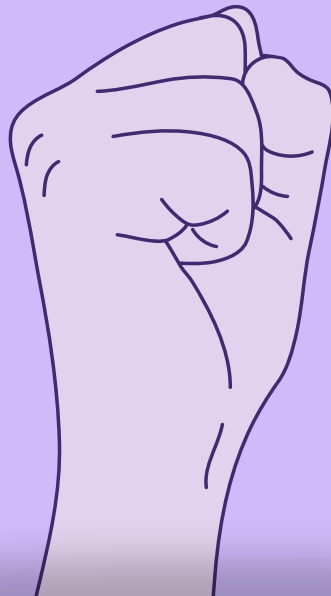
... AND PRIORITIZED PARISHES BELOW 1-10 THAT RECEIVED A DISASTER DECLARATION FROM HURRICANE IDA.



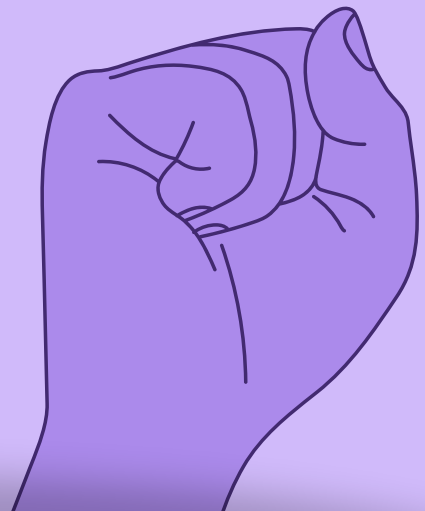
90%
BIPOC



42%
LGBTQ

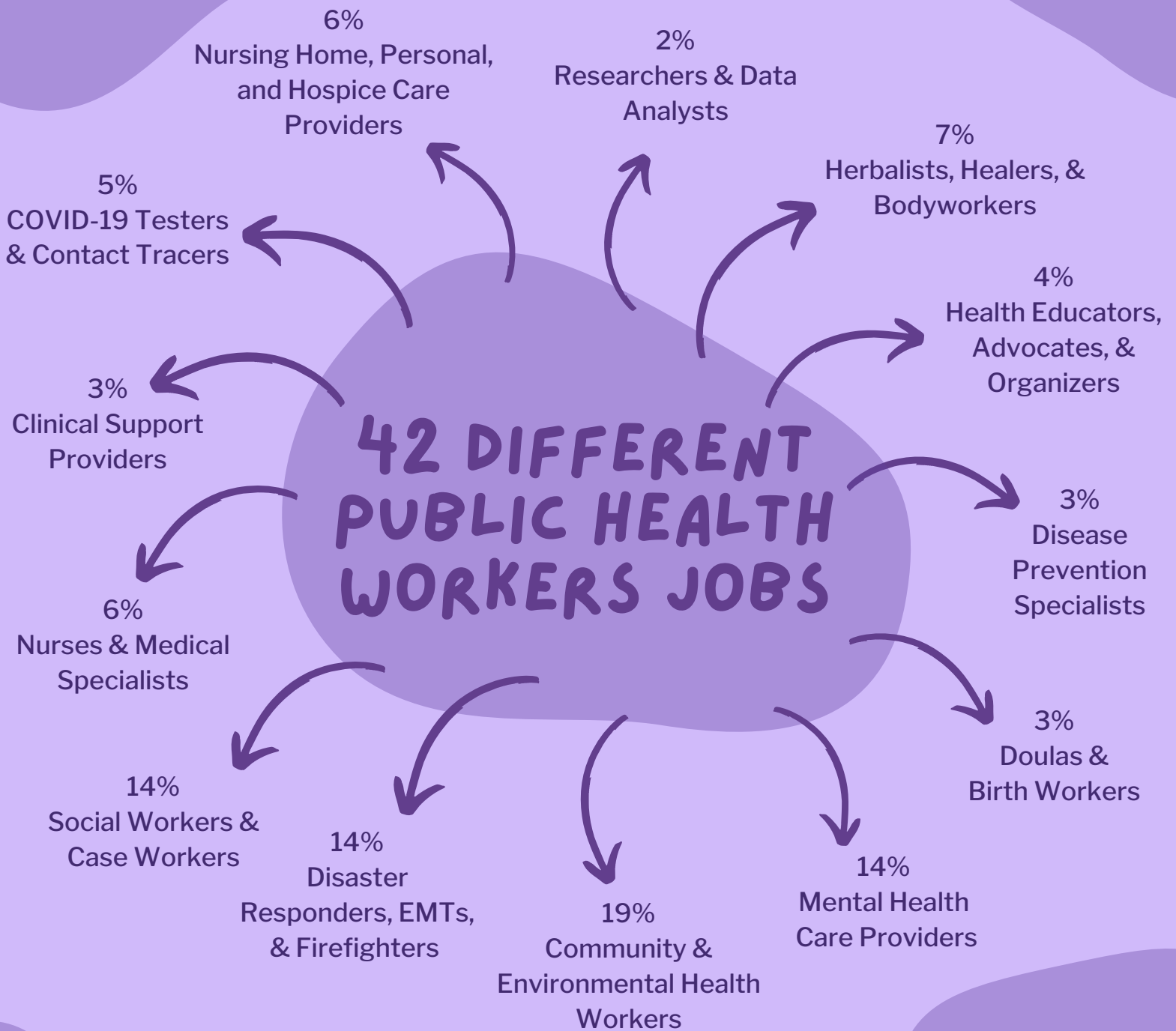


7%
TRANS/
NONBINARY



WE TOOK AN EXPANSIVE VIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
MOVED RESOURCES TO THOSE IN RURAL AREAS, AND
PRIORITIZED LGBTQ AND BIPOC INDIVIDUALS.

42 DIFFERENT PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS JOBS





? "WHY PRIORITIZE
BIPOC & LGBTQ
PEOPLE?"

The climate crisis is a serious health threat for people from all walks of life, but those threats are amplified for communities that already face societal inequities and systemic oppression.

A 2019 study from UCLA and USC showed that the “toxic effect” of stress caused by anti-Black racism can trigger an immune system response that increases chronic inflammation, which in turn causes a host of health problems.

But stress stemming from biased encounters is far from the only factor that leads to shorter life spans.

In fact, racism is a “[multi-system agitator.](#)”

Its many tentacles are wrapped around the policies, practices, and procedures that govern (and harm) Black lives. This is evident, too, in how BIPOC communities are protected or resourced before, during, and after storms like Hurricane Ida.

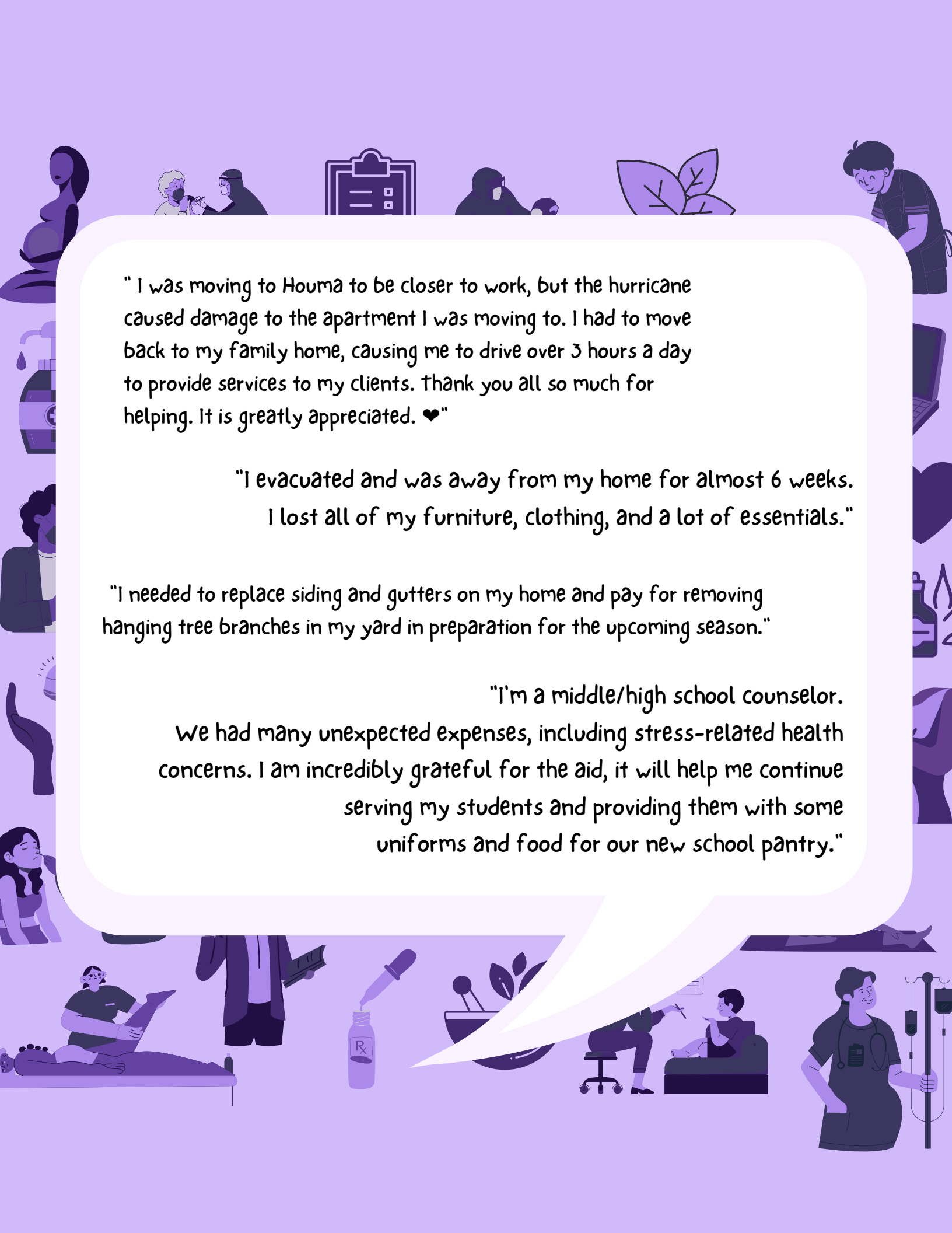
Source: Wizdom Powell, director of the Health Disparities Institute and associate professor of psychiatry at UConn Health

An illustration of two stylized figures with teal hair and black spots on their white clothing, walking in the rain. They are holding dark purple umbrellas. The background is a light purple color with white clouds at the top and dark purple raindrops falling. A large white speech bubble is at the top, and a white rectangular box with rounded corners is in the center, containing text. The ground is dark purple with puddles.

FOR THE **LGBTQ** COMMUNITY, SOCIAL STIGMA, HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT, AND INADEQUATE SAFE LIVING SPACES ALSO MAKES US MORE VULNERABLE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHES.

For example, the unemployment rate among transgender people is 3x that of the general population — and it's even higher for Black transgender people.

LGBTQ folks often don't have access to the same assets, resources, and information as others because of harassment, exclusion, and restricted social networks. **This significantly impacts our ability to prepare for and recover from storms and floods.**



"I was moving to Houma to be closer to work, but the hurricane caused damage to the apartment I was moving to. I had to move back to my family home, causing me to drive over 3 hours a day to provide services to my clients. Thank you all so much for helping. It is greatly appreciated. ♥"

"I evacuated and was away from my home for almost 6 weeks. I lost all of my furniture, clothing, and a lot of essentials."

"I needed to replace siding and gutters on my home and pay for removing hanging tree branches in my yard in preparation for the upcoming season."

"I'm a middle/high school counselor. We had many unexpected expenses, including stress-related health concerns. I am incredibly grateful for the aid, it will help me continue serving my students and providing them with some uniforms and food for our new school pantry."

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) provided us with a \$10,000 grant to fund 20 applications.

We contributed \$90,000 from our Hurricane Ida Relief & Recovery Fund to fund an additional 180 applications.



**TOGETHER WE AWARDED \$500 GRANTS TO
200 PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS WHO WERE
SIGNIFICANTLY
IMPACTED BY
THE STORM.**



Learn more about our work at
www.imaginewaterworks.org