

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Reducing the Burden of Disaster-Related Mental Health:

**Filling Knowledge Gaps in Culturally Appropriate Evidence-Based
Interventions for At-Risk Communities Affected by Acute Disasters**

*The National
Academies of*

SCIENCES
ENGINEERING
MEDICINE

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

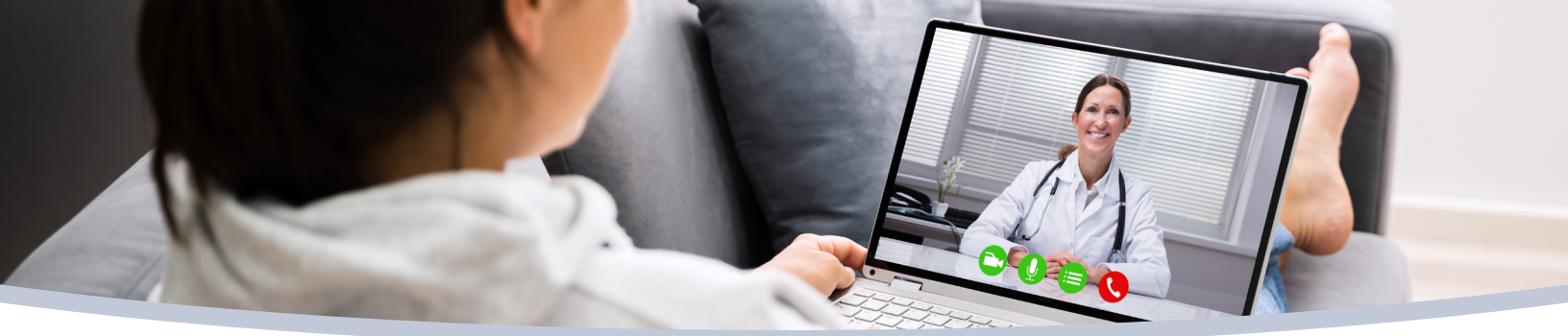


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Visit the Gulf Research Program on the web for more [information about this funding opportunity](#). Questions can be emailed to gulfgrants@nas.edu

SUMMARY OF THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The [Gulf Research Program](#) (GRP) is developing new programming around health and community resilience that prioritizes the needs and challenges of at-risk communities who are disproportionately impacted by disasters. This funding opportunity will support efforts that reduce the burden of disaster-related mental health (DRMH) with a focus on the mental health consequences of acute¹ disasters. Specifically, the research that is funded by this opportunity will fill knowledge gaps on culturally appropriate interventions that address (e.g., treat, reduce, prevent) adverse DRMH for at-risk communities that are disproportionately affected by acute disasters.

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support research that (1) adapts and implements existing evidenced-based interventions (EBIs) that address adverse DRMH for subgroups of the population who (a) are an at-risk community², (b) have a history of being disproportionately impacted by acute disasters, and (c) are located in the GRP's geographic focus area³; and (2) explore, examine, or evaluate the implementation of these adapted EBIs for cultural appropriateness. The GRP is accepting proposals from U.S. academic institutions or nonprofit organizations. Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)⁴ are strongly encouraged to apply.

AWARD DETAILS

Total Amount Available: Up to \$4 million

Award per Grantee: Up to \$1 million

Period of Performance: Up to 36 months

Estimated Number of Awards: 4

KEY DATES

- **October 13, 2021:** Online proposal submission opens
- **December 6, 2021:** Deadline for submissions of proposals due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- **February 7, 2022:** Award selection and notification
- **March 8, 2022:** Anticipated funding start date

Online submission website: <https://gulfresearchprogram.smapply.io/>

1 Acute disasters are “events that occur over a short period of time that negatively impact people's well-being, assets, safety, livelihoods, and ability to endure future [disasters]”. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. 2019. *Building and Measuring Community Resilience: Actions for Communities and the Gulf Research Program*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

2 The GRP defines “at-risk” communities as those who are underserved, under-resourced, under-represented, over-burdened or otherwise marginalized.

3 The GRP's geographic scope includes the coastal regions of all five Gulf of Mexico states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida) and Southcentral Alaska.

4 Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AAPISIs).

THE CHALLENGE

The mental health consequences of acute disasters can be extensive and significant for affected populations [1]. Studies on Gulf Coast communities affected by acute disasters (e.g., Hurricane Katrina, 2005; Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, 2010) have documented a range of mental health outcomes, including psychological distress, substance use, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, and suicidal ideation [2 – 6]. Moreover, a subset of these studies found that adverse DRMH disproportionately burdened at-risk communities (e.g., higher levels of psychological distress were reported from low-income and African American/Black individuals, who were less likely to report current access to mental health services).

The aforementioned mental health outcomes have been well-studied and have effective EBIs designed to address them within the context of *general trauma care*; however, there is limited knowledge on how effective these EBIs are within the context of *disaster care* for the general population, as well as for special subgroups of the population (e.g., at-risk communities) [7,8]. For the Gulf Coast, specifically, there is a need to culturally adapt existing EBIs that address (e.g., treat, reduce, prevent) adverse DRMH for at-risk communities who have a history of being disproportionately affected by acute disasters and being marginalized from health systems and services.

PURPOSE OF THIS FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support research that (1) adapts and implements existing EBIs that address adverse DRMH for subgroups of the population who (a) are an at-risk community, (b) have a history of being disproportionately affected by acute disasters, and (c) are located in the GRP's geographic focus area; and (2) explore, examine, or evaluate the implementation of these adapted EBIs for cultural appropriateness.

DELIVERABLES

Each project will produce the following deliverables:

1. Semi-annual and final reports
2. Relevant outputs or access to outputs that were developed for or from the proposed project

The GRP plans to showcase the projects (e.g., through NASEM websites, social media, webinar series, grantee meetings) with a variety of audiences, such as nonprofits who are interested in integrating mental health services into disaster recovery services. Additionally, the projects will inform the GRP in the development of future programming that can expand on the findings from the funded projects.

GRP grantees are also required to adhere to internal GRP reporting requirements (i.e., progress reports, status calls, annual meetings, financial reports). For more information, see “Reporting Requirements.”

PROJECT GUIDELINES

REQUIREMENTS

To be responsive to this funding opportunity, the proposal must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Select an existing EBI that addresses (e.g., treats, reduces, prevents) at least one adverse DRMH outcome (e.g., PTSD, depression, psychological distress).
- (2) Adapt the selected EBI for a subgroup of the population (herein referred to as the “target population”) that
 - a. has a history of being disproportionately affected by acute disasters;
 - b. meets the GRP definition of an at-risk community; and
 - c. is located in the GRP’s geographic focus area.
- (3) Implement the adapted EBI for the target population.
- (4) Explore, examine, or evaluate the implemented EBI for fit, including cultural appropriateness, for the target population.

If the proposed project involves research on human subjects or the use of human-subject data, see Research Involving Human Subjects below.

ELIGIBILITY

The GRP welcomes proposals from U.S. academic institutions or nonprofit organizations. The applying organization will be referred to as the “applicant” hereafter. The individual who will lead the proposed project will be referred to as “project director” hereafter.

The GRP requires applicants to adhere to the following:

- This funding opportunity is for new, distinct activities only. Proposed activities that augment a broader, existing effort or project may be eligible if the proposal clearly demonstrates that the funding request is for new, distinct activities that would not otherwise occur.
- Proposed activities currently under consideration for funding from other sources are not eligible.
- Proposed activities involving advocacy or lobbying are not eligible.
- All applicants must have a valid U.S. federal tax ID number.
- Nonprofit applicants must have a 501(c)(3) status.
- U.S. federal agencies are not eligible to receive GRP funding as applicants or sub-awardees, although their employees may be non-funded collaborators.
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) and University Affiliated Research centers (UCARCs) can be named as sub-awardees, however, they must have the authority to obtain funding for work outside of their federal sponsor contract and not be proposing to do work they are otherwise doing under their federal sponsor contract.
- BP Exploration and Production, Inc. (BP), Transocean Deepwater, Inc. (Transocean), their affiliates, and employees are not eligible to receive grant funding or to participate in any grant.

The GRP requires the project director and key personnel in an application to adhere to the following:

- An individual may be named as Project Director in only one application.
- An individual, including a Project Director, may be named as Key Personnel in any number of other applications.
- If an individual appears on multiple proposals, a clear description should be included to explain how the proposed work is complementary and not duplicative of other proposed efforts and how the participant

- will budget his or her time.
- Should an individual appear on two or more proposals as Project Director, ALL proposals listing that individual as Project Director will be disqualified and eliminated from the review process. It is the responsibility of the Project Directors to confirm that each member of the entire team is within the eligibility guidelines.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Applications for this funding opportunity will be reviewed through a full proposal process. Please review the application preparation and submission instructions and submit any questions to gulfgrants@nas.edu prior to the submission deadlines. The GRP strives to respond to applicants' questions within two business days, but cannot guarantee that applicants' questions will be answered before submission deadlines.

The GRP will only accept proposals submitted via the [online application system](#). Full proposal materials submitted in any language other than English will not be considered. The GRP may reject, without review, proposals that are not responsive to the Request for Proposal instructions.

The applying institution or organization will be referred to as the "applicant" hereafter. The individuals who will lead the proposed project will be referred to as "project directors" hereafter.

The proposal must include the following elements:

- I. Applicant** (up to 500 words)
Describe the applicant, including their location, mission and vision statement, research and/or practical experience with the target population, acute disasters, and/or mental health.
- II. Project Team**
Project directors are encouraged to assemble diverse project teams. Partnerships with nonprofits, community-based organizations, and/or faith-based organizations that are representative of the target population, are highly encouraged.
 - a. ORCID (Open Research and Contributor ID)
 - b. Project directors (up to 250 words): Describe the project director(s) research and/or practical experience with the target population, acute disasters, and/or mental health.
 - c. Project team members (up to 1000 words): Describe each project team member's research and/or practical experience with the target population, acute disasters, and/or mental health.
 - d. Involvement of the project directors and project team members in other proposals related to this funding opportunity.
- III. Project Details**
 - a. Project title (up to 15 words)
 - b. Project key words (up to 10 words)
 - c. Project summary (up to 250 words)
 - d. Anticipated timeline of activities (up to 500 words). Alternatively, applicants may upload a Gantt chart or other type of project schedule.
 - e. Project description
 - i. Community Characteristics (up to 1000 words)
Describe the target population, for example:
 - a. Demographics
 - b. Cultural profile
 - c. History of being affected by acute disasters
 - d. Epidemiological profile on mental health risks and outcomes, including disparities

- (to the extent that the data are available)
 - e. Rationale for selecting target population
- ii. **Intervention Characteristics** (up to 1000 words)
Describe the existing EBI(s) that will be adapted, for example:
 - a. What mental health risk and/or outcomes is/are the EBI(s) effective at targeting and in what way?
 - b. In which other populations has/have the EBI(s) been tested?
 - c. In what setting(s) (e.g., clinics, workplace, schools) has/have the EBI(s) been tested?
- iii. **Study Characteristics** (up to 1500 words)
Describe key aspects of the project, for example:
 - a. Purpose and aims
 - b. Study design
 - c. Sampling strategy
 - d. Methodology and methods, for example:
 - i. Theories, models, frameworks, and/or approaches. The use of an implementation science framework is highly recommended.
 - ii. Hypotheses, if applicable
 - iii. Adaptations (e.g., context, content, new setting, new population, cultural modifications, delivery)
 - iv. Plan for examination, exploration, or evaluation for fit, including cultural appropriateness, for the target population
 - e. Generalizability or transferability
- f. Data management plan. Please submit a Data Management Plan in accordance with [GRP's Data Management Policy](#).
- g. Works cited

IV. Proposal Budget

- a. Anticipated total project or program budget
- b. Anticipated budget distribution among organizations you partner with, if applicable.

IV. Required Attachments

- a. **Budget Form** ([template](#)). Download this form and complete it.
- b. **Budget justification** (maximum 2,000 words). View a [sample budget justification](#).
- c. **Resume(s)**: A resume is required for the project director and each individual identified as a project team member. Resumes are limited to two pages for each person. Please combine all resumes into a single PDF document before uploading as an attachment. If a resume is longer than two pages, only the first two pages will be considered in peer review.
- d. **Collaborators and Other Affiliations Form**: The purpose of this form is to help the GRP eliminate potential conflicts of interest during reviewer recruitment. [Download](#) the form and complete it to provide necessary information.
- e. **Current and Pending Support from Other Sources Form**: [Download](#) the form and complete it to provide information on current and pending support from other sources for the project director and each project team member, if applicable, and upload it to the online application system.

FULL PROPOSAL PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Only complete applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by external reviewers based on the Merit Review Criteria (see below). Funding decisions will take into consideration the reviewer's evaluations and the program's funding availability, current portfolio, objectives, and goals. The final decision for funding will be made by the National Academies. Visit our website to see the [GRP's conflict of interest and confidentiality policies](#).

FULL PROPOSAL MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of four review criteria. The bullets under each criterion should guide applicants in writing their proposals and guide reviewers in evaluating a proposal.

Relevance and Impact (35%)

- To what extent does the proposal address the challenge?
- To what extent is the proposal feasible within the criteria of this funding opportunity?
- To what extent could the proposed project be generalized or transferred (e.g., same setting but new target population, same target population but new setting, same setting and target population but new context)?

Scientific Rigor (35%)

- To what extent is there a well-justified rationale for selecting the target population?
- To what extent does the proposed project engage the target population?
- To what extent is the existing EBI appropriate for addressing the adverse DRMH outcomes selected?
- To what extent does/do the proposed adaptation(s) maintain or consider the maintenance of fidelity (e.g., balance cultural modifications with EBI core elements)?
- To what extent does the proposed plan assess cultural appropriateness?

Project or Program Team (20%)

- To what extent are project team members well-qualified in their experience, knowledge, and skills to ensure the completion of a successful proposed project?

Budget (10%)

- To what extent is the budget commensurate with the proposed project?

DATA MANAGEMENT POLICY

The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) applies to this RFA. To facilitate sharing of data and information products, all applications submitted to the GRP must include a data management plan and follow FAIR guiding principles (FAIR stands for "Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable." To learn more about FAIR guiding principles refer to the National Academies report "[Open Science by Design: Realizing a Vision for 21st Century Research](#)"). Information products may include documents (i.e., reports, workshop summaries, etc.), multi-media curricula for education and training (i.e., video and/or online tutorials, manuals and handbooks, etc.), and other media and communication platforms. Even in the unlikely case in which no data or any other information products will be produced, a plan must be submitted that states "No data or information products are expected to be produced from this project." The GRP's [Data Management Policy](#) and [Data Management web page](#) provides information on what must be included in the data management plan submitted as part of an application.

RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

All projects involving human subjects must be submitted to an institutional review board (IRB) for review and either receive IRB approval or be granted exemption from human subjects' regulations before an award can be made. Proposers should file their application with their local IRB at the same time the application is submitted to the GRP so that any approval procedure determined as necessary will not delay the award process. An appli-

cation may be submitted to the GRP prior to receiving IRB approval or being granted exemption; however, if the application is selected for funding, the award will be made conditional upon IRB granting approval or exemption from human subjects' regulations within 60 days of the notice of conditional award. If a proposed project involving human subjects is granted exemption from human subjects' regulations [see [45 CFR 46.101\(b\)](#)], the Applicant must provide documentation that an IRB (or the appropriate authority other than the Project Director or Key Personnel) has declared the project exempt from the human subjects regulations. Documentation should include the specific category justifying the exemption. Organizations without internal access to an IRB must seek approval or exemption from an independent review board or other appropriate authority.

MAKING THE AWARD

SELECTION NOTICE

The GRP reserves the right to select all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this solicitation.

When the evaluation of a proposal is complete, the project director will be notified that (1) the proposal has been selected for funding pending contract negotiations, or (2) the proposal has not been selected. These official notifications will be sent via email to the project director identified on the application. If a proposal is selected for award, the GRP reserves the right to request additional or clarifying information for any reason deemed necessary, including, but not limited to, indirect cost information or other budget information. Awardees are free to accept or reject the grant agreement as offered.

AWARD NOTICE

The GRP transmits award notices to organizations via e-mail. The award is not finalized and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is not obligated to provide any funding until a signed copy of the award agreement has been received by the Academies.

GRANT PERIODS

Upon receipt of the award notice, the awardee should note the effective date and the expiration date. Effective date is the date specified in the grant notice on or after which expenditures may be charged to the grant. Charging expenditures to the grant prior to the effective date is prohibited. Expiration date is the date specified in the grant notice after which expenditures may not be charged against the grant except to satisfy obligations to pay allowable project costs committed on or before that date. Once an award is made, the effective date cannot be changed. The expiration date may be changed as a result of approval of a request for a no-cost extension. If approved, the GRP will issue an amendment to the grant.

If additional time beyond the performance period and the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work within the funds already made available, the awardee may apply for a one-time, no-cost extension of up to six months. A formal request must be submitted to the GRP at least 45 days prior to the expiration date of the grant. The request must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use. This one-time extension will not be approved solely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances.

POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT

COORDINATION WITH THE GRP

After the award is conferred, grantees shall coordinate with GRP to formally initiate the project. GRP staff will periodically request status meetings during the project implementation phase to discuss progress and any unanticipated developments that may affect the project outcomes as specified in the grant agreement. These interactions will help ensure successful management of the grant.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

After an award is conferred, the grantee shall provide a semi-annual financial report to the GRP to report on grant expenditures to date under the grant. The grantee shall provide an annual written report to the GRP to report on activities being carried out under the grant, including but not limited to project accomplishments to date and grant expenditures. No later than sixty (60) days after the expiration of the award, the grantee shall provide in writing a final grant report. The final grant report shall address the original objectives of the project as identified in the grant proposal, describe any changes in objectives, describe the final project accomplishments, and include a final project accounting of all grant funds.

DATA MANAGEMENT

Implementation of a data management plan will be monitored through the annual and final report process. Even when no data or any other information products will be produced, a plan must be submitted that states “No data or information products are expected to be produced from this project.” Please see the GRP’s [Data Management Policy and Data Management](#) web page for information on this requirement.

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

A fundamental purpose of the GRP is to facilitate the advancement of knowledge and the application of science to address challenges relevant to the Program’s mission. All activities of the GRP will be conducted to meet the highest standards of scientific integrity. All grantees have a responsibility to use the funds wisely.

GRANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please review the Grant Agreement prior to submitting an application. It is the policy of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to entertain potential modifications to the Grant Agreement only under the most exceptional circumstances. Rather, successful applicants are strongly encouraged to sign the Grant Agreement as presented.

- [View a sample grant agreement if the applicant is a public institution.](#)
- [View a sample agreement if the applicant is a private institution.](#)

ABOUT THE GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

The GRP is a division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine—a private, nonprofit organization with a 150-year history as an independent advisor to the Nation on issues of science, engineering, and medicine. The GRP was founded in 2013 as part of legal settlements with the companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, and received an endowment to carry out studies, projects, and other activities in the areas of research and development, education and training, and monitoring and synthesis.

The GRP seeks to enhance offshore energy safety, environmental protection and stewardship, and human health and community resilience in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. It focuses its work on the Gulf of Mexico and other outer continental shelves of the United States where there is hydrocarbon production, and on their coastal zones; specifically, this includes the areas of the Southcentral region of Alaska that are or could be impacted by activities (e.g., drilling, production, transportation) associated with hydrocarbon production in the offshore. Where appropriate, the GRP's work may extend farther inland or into adjacent seas.

The GRP uses four strategic approaches to “catalyze, implement, and track positive impact in the Gulf of Mexico and beyond”⁵:

1. Advance science and understanding
2. Bridge knowledge to action
3. Build partnerships and engage networks
4. Monitor for progress and change

THE GRP'S HEALTH AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The Gulf Health and Community Resilience Program manages two major efforts: 1) the Gulf Health and Resilience Board which funds research and supports projects that develop approaches and solutions that advance science and understanding in health and community resilience, and 2) the Enhancing Community Resilience Initiative, a concerted community engagement program that applies science in select communities to support local health and community resilience efforts.

The overarching goal of the Health and Resilience Program is to advance equity in health and climate resilience efforts in the GRP's geographic areas of focus (i.e., the coastal areas of the Gulf region and Southcentral Alaska) by:

- Reducing inequities in health and community resilience.
- Advancing research and practice in health and community resilience.
- Building the capacity of communities to: 1) address the impacts of climate change and disasters on at-risk communities, and 2) sustain their disaster and climate resilience efforts.

5 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2020. Gulf Research Program: 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, pp. 3-4. Available at https://www.nationalacademies.org/_cache_0f9e/content/4885770000227383.pdf. Retrieved April 24, 2021.

The Health and Resilience Program uses two complementary frameworks to approach its work:

1. the social determinants of health⁶
2. the six community capitals⁷

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. Examples include, but are not limited to, education, employment, environment, health services and systems, housing, income and wealth, public safety, and transportation. The six community capitals—infrastructure, natural, financial, human and cultural, social, and political—represent a community's assets.

Resilience is the “ability to prepare and plan for, absorb, recover from, and more successfully adapt to adverse events.”⁸

1. Saul, J. (2014). *Collective Trauma, Collective Healing: Promoting Community Resilience in the Aftermath of Disaster*. Taylor & Francis: New York, NY.
2. Adeola, FO. (2009). Mental health & psychological distress sequelae of Katrina: An empirical study of survivors. *Human Ecology Review*, 16(2), 195-210.
3. Adams, V, Van Hattum, T, & English, D. (2009). Chronic disaster syndrome: Displacement, disaster capitalism, and the eviction of the poor from New Orleans. *American Ethnologist*, 36(4), 615-636.
4. Drescher, CF., Schulenberg, SE, & Smith, CV. (2014). The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the Mississippi Gulf Coast: Mental health in the context of a technological disaster. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 84(2), 142-151.
5. Lee, J, Blackman, BJ, Cochran, DM, Kar, B, Rehner, TA, & Stubbs Funnell, M. (2018). Community resilience, psychological resilience, and depressive symptoms: An examination of the Mississippi Gulf Coast 10 years after Hurricane Katrina and 5 years after the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, 12, 241-248.
6. Buttke, D, Vagi, S, Schnall, A, Bayleyegn, T, Morrison, M, Allen, M, & Wolkin, A. (2012). Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) one year following the Gulf Coast oil spill: Alabama and Mississippi, 2011. *Prehospital and Disaster Medicine*, 27(6), 496-502.
7. North, CS, & Pfefferbaum, B. (2013). Mental health response to community disasters: A systematic review. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 310(5), 507-18.
8. North, CS. (2016). Disaster mental health epidemiology: methodological review and interpretation of research findings. *Psychiatry*, 79(2), 130-46.

6 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. *Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity*, pp. 116-9. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24624>.

7 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2019. *Building and Measuring Community Resilience: Actions for Communities and the Gulf Research Program*, pp. 15-17. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/25383>.

8 National Research Council. 2012. *Disaster Resilience: A National Imperative*, p. 1. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/13457>