

Fact Sheet on OMB Proposal that Would Disrupt the Management of the World Trade Center Health Program and Threatened the Health of 9/11 Responders and Survivors.

The President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2019 contains an existential threat to the carefully established and designed management and administration of the World Trade Center Health Program and the health and wellbeing of thousands of 9/11 injured and ill responders and survivors who are getting medical treatment from the program. This damaging proposal should be immediately withdrawn.

OMB Director Mick Mulvaney's proposal would tear the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) -- moving NIOSH to the National Institute of Health (NIH) and leaving the WTCHP as a free-standing entity within the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

- The President's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019, that starts this October 1st, proposes substantial cuts to NIOSH and proposes moving NIOSH from the CDC to the NIH, it also proposes to strip from NIOSH the management of the WTC Health Program.
- The budget for NIOSH non-WTC functions would be cut from 335 million dollars to 200 million dollars ¹. At the same time, management of the World Trade Center Health Program that provides medical treatment and/or monitoring to 9/11 responders from the WTC Center, the Pentagon and the Shanksville Crash site and medical treatment for survivors who were exposed to the toxins at Ground Zero would be transferred from an agency with the right expertise, and with over a decade running the program.
- The proposal has NO information on how this will be done and there is NO discussion or acknowledgment of the impact it will have on the 83,000 9/11 responder sand survivors who depend on the program for care and who reside in every State, and in 433 out of 435 Congressional Districts. The only reference to this radical move, which threatens to disrupt care for many thousands, is one line from the bottom of page 44 of the budget document, under a section titled 2019 Major Savings and Reforms: "The World Trade Center Health Program, currently administered by NIOSH, would continue to be administered by the CDC." [Here it is](#). That's it. There is no explanation, there is no plan and no consideration given to what this means for 9/11 responders and survivors.
- This proposal directly contradicts the legislation Congress passed just three years ago to renew the NIOSH program for 75 years and will put at risk the health of those who have been made ill by 9/11 and are still suffering, and in too many cases, still dying from their injuries, now 17 years later.
- NIOSH is dedicated to occupational health, as its name indicates, the exact specialized medical expertise that then Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson

1 . This is cut in funding is NOT new, the administration proposed this same cut last year for Fiscal Year 2018, the current Fiscal Year which has been operating under a continuing resolution but both Houses of Congress have rejected that level of a cut. The House proposed budget has a 10 million cut and the Senate proposed budget has a 5 million dollar cut in both of their respective proposed budgets. NIOSH is operating under the current \$335 million budget for non WTCHP programs.

knew was needed to address the 9/11 health crisis, when he originally selected Dr. Howard, a Bush Administration appointee, to lead the administration's response to the health impact of the toxins at Ground Zero.

- Because of its unique knowledge and expertise, NIOSH has been at the forefront of responding to the injuries caused by the toxins at Ground Zero. NIOSH helped create the initial monitoring and treatment program. Because of NIOSH's unique mission and expertise, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 put NIOSH in charge of the WTC Health Program.
- Much of the staff of NIOSH are shared employees who provide their expertise to both programs. There is NO explanation as to how this successful arrangement will be unraveled, or how, without NIOSH's essential expertise, the WTC Health Program could function at all.
- The reauthorization statute has specific language and procedures that were carefully developed and negotiated that tie these two programs together and integrate their operation. There is NO consideration of how the World Trade Center Health Program will operate if it is stripped from NIOSH.
- This radical move will have a direct negative impact on the care injured 911 responders and survivors will receive:
 1. NIOSH has made steady progress improving service delivery for those residing in the New York region, as well as for those living beyond the New York area, through its National Program.
 2. The WTC Health Program is a complex medical treatment and monitoring program that NIOSH has built over the years. The program would be deprived of the career public servants and expertise that are its foundation and the basis for its success.
 3. For example, the contract for mail order prescriptions was recently awarded to a new vendor. NIOSH staff are working to ensure that no patients will be at risk of missing their prescriptions; this is particularly important for those receiving cancer medications.
 4. Also, there is concern about the emotional toll that even the suggestion of this disruptive move will have on the injured 9/11 community. For many years, this community fought for Washington to respond to the mounting 9/11 health crisis and worked to ensure the excellent standard of care the program currently provides. Many who are facing cancer and other disabling injuries will now have the added burden of fear and uncertainty that this move will disrupt and diminish their care when they need it most, and undo everything they fought for.
- Although the administration did not suggest to alter the budget for the WTCHP which is \$420 million for FY18 and \$469 million for FY19, without the proper management by NIOSH staff, it puts at risk the quality of the medical treatment and monitoring for over 83,000 9/11 responders and survivors.
- It makes no sense to rip out the WTC Health Program from NIOSH and move NIOSH to NIH, given the program's clear success in delivering quality WTC health services. The move will throw a critically needed program into crisis..
- For these reasons, OMB should immediately withdraw this proposal.