

9/11 RESPONDER BENEFIT PROGRAMS



Background

On September 11, 2001, and in its aftermath, many FBI employees assisted with the rescue, recovery, and investigative efforts in New York City (at both the World Trade Center and Staten Island Landfill), at the Pentagon and related evidence sites, and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. As a result of that work, more than 15 FBI employees have died from 9/11-related illnesses and many others are facing medical as well as mental health conditions.

While most people can't imagine the conditions at those scenes, we all understand the sense of duty it took to work there, day after day, month after month. However, we're only now beginning to realize the long-term impact of the sacrifices those employees made. Other affected employees include those assigned to the New York Field Office between 9/11/2001 and 7/31/2002, after much of lower Manhattan was designated as a 9/11 Disaster Area.

The federal government has several programs that provide benefits to affected employees or surviving family members. Two of them are the **World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP)** and the **September 11th Victim Compensation Fund (VCF)**. This brochure will help you complete each program registration, which must be done on the program websites. The FBI wants every affected employee to register, even if there are no obvious symptoms of illness now.

This brochure also covers other assistance available from the FBI Human Resources Division (HRD). If you have any questions, please call the FBI 9/11 Responder Benefits Program at (202) 324-9595.



Eligibility

You can register for WTCHP and VCF if you responded to the Pentagon, World Trade Center, Staten Island Landfill, or Shanksville between 9/11/2001 and 7/31/2002, or if you were at any site where debris, human remains, and evidence connected to the investigation was processed. You are also eligible if you worked at 26 Federal Plaza or 290 Broadway. If you were not assigned to 26 Federal Plaza or 290 Broadway (assigned to an RA, offsite, 26th Street Garage, etc.) but worked in lower Manhattan south of Canal Street, the Staten Island Landfill, the barge loading piers, the morgue, or worked on the cars that were in lower Manhattan south of Canal Street on 9/11, you also are eligible.

STEP 1: Request Two Verification Letters from HRD

To start the WTCHP/VCF registration process, you must first request two Verification Letters from the 9/11 benefits program (one for each program). These letters fulfill the program's requirement for proof of response or exposure.

To request the letters, please call the 9/11 benefits program at (202) 324-9595, Monday thru Friday. After answering questions to ensure your eligibility, you will receive a survey via e-mail. When you return all the required information, you will receive the letters in about two weeks. If you need further documentation of your work on 9/11, the staff will explain how to obtain the two required affidavits. For more information, please send questions in an e-mail to FBI911RespondersHelp@fbi.gov.

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STEP 2: Register with World Trade Center Health Program

For eligible employees, WTCHP provides free health screening, monitoring, and treatment for certified medical conditions, including certain cancers, respiratory diseases (asthma, and chronic cough), digestive disorders, and mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Eligible responders and survivors will receive free annual medical monitoring. If your condition is certified as a WTC-related health condition, WTCHP healthcare providers will provide free, quality, medically necessary treatment for that condition.

The program is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). If you have questions, please call (888) 982-4748.

To register, go to www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html to download the application. Send the completed form and your Verification Letter *together* to WTCHP via fax or mail. You will receive a letter confirming your enrollment. If you do not receive the letter within four weeks, call to inquire about your status. Phone wait times can be long, so please be patient.

STEP 3: Register with the Victim Compensation Fund

It is critical for all 9/11 responders to register with VCF *now* because registration preserves the right to file claims for injury or death later. To register:

- Go to www.claims.vcf.gov and create an account with a user name, e-mail address, password, and security questions.
- Then, register by providing your name, address, SSN, and phone number. This takes less than five minutes.

This fund compensates individuals who suffered a physical injury or a condition as a result of the 9/11 attacks, or died as a result of those injuries or conditions. The eligibility standards are based on those set by WTCHP. For more information, call (855) 885-1555 or visit www.vcf.gov.



Assistance from the FBI Human Resources Division

HRD can also assist affected employees with other resources, including filing appeals with WTCHP and VCF, and managing Department of Labor claims. To get started, call the 9/11 benefits program at (202) 324-9595 and request 9/11-related HRD Assistance. It may take up to five business days to receive a response.



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** If I call HRD to obtain the Verification Letters, am I enrolled in these programs?
- A.** No. You must contact each program separately and submit an application to each program.
- Q.** I have retired from the FBI. Is it too late for me to enroll?
- A.** No. Call the 9/11 benefits program today at (202) 324-9595 or send an e-mail to FBI911RespondersHelp@fbi.gov to request your Verification Letters. With those in hand, you can enroll in each program.
- Q.** I worked at a warehouse processing debris and evidence. Can I get the Verification Letters?
- A.** Yes, with proper documentation. Please call the 9/11 benefits program at (202) 324-9595 or send an e-mail to FBI911RespondersHelp@fbi.gov.

Contact Information

FBI 9/11 Responder Benefits Program

(202) 324-9595

External E-mail: FBI911RespondersHelp@fbi.gov

World Trade Center Health Program

(888) 982-4748

www.cdc.gov/wtc/apply.html

Victim Compensation Fund

(855) 885-1555

www.vcf.gov