



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
CITY OF CHICAGO

Dear Chicago Health Care Coalition Partners,

The recent devastation that Hurricane Maria caused to the island of Puerto Rico has left many of our fellow Americans in great need of help and relief. The drastic destruction of the island's infrastructure has left millions without shelter, power, water, food and essential life supplies, including access to medical facilities and services. Mayor Emanuel, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and several other City of Chicago service agencies have pledged that Chicago will be a safe haven for our fellow Americans, and work diligently to receive and support any evacuee from Puerto Rico that chooses to find comfort in Chicago, be it on a short-term basis, or choosing to make Chicago their new home. Chicago has the fourth largest Puerto Rican population in the continental United States, and we anticipate that many of our city's residents will be taking in family and friends in need. Based on previous large scale disasters there could be up to 10,000 Puerto Ricans who may choose to come to Chicago. Mayor Emanuel and many city agency leaders, including myself, are working hard to ease the burden of this transition, while ensuring our fellow Americans are receiving the most necessary and basic attention possible. There has been no federal declaration of emergency, and therefore no federal aid has been identified for the evacuees as of this writing (10/16/2017). **This is why we need your help!**

CDPH is reaching out to the entire Chicago Healthcare System to identify your capacity and willingness to provide services to those that have already arrived in Chicago, and the influx of Puerto Rican Americans that we still anticipate will come to Chicago. My team at CDPH has already secured mutual aid agreements with a few national corporations, such as Walgreen's, to help ease this burden. Their generosity to donate vaccines and an initial 30-day supply of current prescription medications is just one example of how Chicago, and our partners, are working together in this time of need. However, we anticipate the medical needs of many will be on-going, until such a time federal aid is provided, and these displaced Americans are able to find intermediate or long-time housing, employment and insurance.

**WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?** CDPH is looking to compile a resource list that will identify providers willing to support this cause by providing services to those affected. There is a city-wide plan in place to help identify those that fit the criteria for services, and we would like to be able to provide a listing of healthcare providers who can meet additional needs. In order to do this, please identify the following:

1. Your willingness to provide **necessary** medical services, with the understanding that many have no means of payment.
2. Identify the areas of services you are willing to provide;
  - Primary Care      -Dialysis      -Dental      -Social Services
  - Family practice      -Pediatrics      -Behavioral/Mental Health      -OB/GYN
  - Internal medicine      -Immunizations
3. Identify your initial capacity/limitations on individual services.
4. Identify your Point of Contact (POC) for this special request.

Please feel free to refer any questions or responses to [CDPHPHEOC@cityofchicago.org](mailto:CDPHPHEOC@cityofchicago.org) or find more information at [www.CHSCPR.org](http://www.CHSCPR.org)

Sincerely,

Julie Morita, M.D.  
Commissioner