



## **COUNCIL ON LINKAGES BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE**

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### **Funders' Think Tank Confirms Commitment to Public Health Systems Research**

#### ***Participants Call for Collection of Public Health Infrastructure Data as Part of Study of Response to Hurricane Katrina***

On September 29, 2005, key funders and sponsors in the arena of public health systems research (PHSR) met to discuss strategies to foster greater collaboration among their organizations and other potential partners, and to leverage increased investment in the field. This meeting, convened by the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council), was a landmark event in the Council's nearly decade-long effort to raise awareness about PHSR. This type of research would provide practice organizations with access to needed evidence about the organization, workforce, financing, and management of public health systems. Representatives from AcademyHealth, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health shared their vision of how to transform PHSR in the United States as well as concrete action items for what can be done within the next three to twelve months to advance research in this area.

One action item that meeting attendees agreed is high priority and time sensitive is investigating the lessons that can be gleaned from the response to Hurricane Katrina about the essential components of an effective public health system. Meeting participants were in consensus that valuable data about public health infrastructure should be collected as the country turns its attention to investigating the response to the hurricane and to rebuilding the public health system in affected areas in the Gulf. The Council is willing to serve as a clearinghouse to track information on Katrina-related PHSR initiatives, including 1) research being conducted, 2) organizations interested in financing or conducting research, and 3) research needs that have not yet been met.

If you are aware of PHSR related to Hurricane Katrina that is either underway or should be conducted, please contact Council staff (Jessica Kronstadt, [jkronstadt@phf.org](mailto:jkronstadt@phf.org), 202.218.4423).

A more comprehensive description of the meeting, including a list of action items and vision statements, is available at: <http://www.phf.org/Link/phsr/92905report.pdf>.