



Clinton and Essex Counties
518-524-9616

Press Release

Project Hope Outreach in Clinton and Essex Counties

Almost 30 counties in New York State received federal disaster declarations in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. In response to the disaster, the New York State Office of Mental Health sought and received federal funding to initiate a time-limited crisis counseling program called Project Hope. Clinton and Essex Counties were among 13 counties that chose to participate in Project Hope. This community-based outreach program is expected to run for about a year and is available free of charge to residents of Clinton and Essex Counties who were impacted by Tropical Storm Irene.

Project Hope recognizes the strengths, natural resilience, and diversity of people affected by the storm. Its mission is to assist storm-survivors to identify and access personal and community resources that will aid in their recovery process. Crisis Counselors can help strengthen coping strategies, assess individual needs, and assist in linking people with community resources. Crisis Counselors can provide emotional support and education about disaster reactions; they are also able to screen and assess for severe reactions that might occur following the disaster. Anyone taking advantage of these services remains anonymous; crisis counselors do not classify, label or diagnose people and no records or case files are kept.

Project Hope Crisis Counselors will be conducting door-to-door outreach to check-in with residents in areas hardest hit by the storm; please look for their Project Hope identification. Counselors may conduct public forums, facilitate groups, attend community events and extend support to groups, organizations, and businesses impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. Project Hope invites calls from individuals, organizations, and businesses that might benefit from support services or that would like to be a referral resource.

Project Hope in Clinton and Essex Counties is provided through the Mental Health Association in Essex County, Inc. and is facilitated by the New York State Office of Mental Health. The program is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. For additional information, please contact Program Coordinator, Gretch Sando, at 518-524-9616.