



TO MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RESPIRATORY CARE:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the lead U.S. Government agency for coordinating Federal medical assistance to State, local and tribal governments in response to natural or man-made disasters.

With certain types of disasters, we anticipate the need for professionals who can administer complex respiratory therapy treatment to critically ill patients. The American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) represents more than 40,000 respiratory care professionals and a network of 50 state societies. AARC provides a crucial communications link between HHS and the respiratory care community.

How can the membership of AARC help? HHS seeks to expand the cadre of 50 respiratory care professionals who have already joined the program by identifying additional geographically-dispersed Respiratory Care Providers (i.e., Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) and Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRT)), who are willing to be hired under HHS' emergency hiring authority when respiratory therapy expertise is needed to respond to natural or man-made disasters.

Professionals interested in participating should be graduates of an accredited school, hold a state license and be accredited through the National Board for Respiratory Care (RRT or CRT). While we have needs for all types of respiratory care professionals, we have specific needs for people who are engaged in clinical practice in pediatrics, emergency medicine, critical care and/or patient transport.

Individuals must be able to deploy on short notice and to practice under a variety of conditions that may include field medical health care units. Their employer must be willing to release them from normal duties for up to two weeks for an emergency response operation. A formal announcement of the specific hiring process is posted at: www.usajobs.gov Announcement number: HHS-OS-2006-0277.

Those hired by HHS under this authority will receive a salary commensurate with capabilities as well as liability coverage and Workers' Compensation. They also will receive training that will include familiarization with the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and the particular ventilator models and equipment it caches.

When a significant public health emergency arises, HHS must be ready to respond and help the American people recover. Please help us fulfill our mission by being a part of an important cadre of professionals who will respond with the Federal government during a public health or medical emergency.

Sincerely,

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