

Division of State and Local Readiness Friday Update

April 16, 2021



CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program is a critical source of funding, guidance, and technical assistance for state, local, and territorial public health departments to strengthen their public health preparedness capabilities and improve their response readiness. The Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) Friday Update provides information and resources for PHEP recipients and other preparedness planners. Please share the newsletter with your colleagues.

For more information, visit the [CDC State and Local Readiness website](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE 

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- **April 21** – HPP-PHEP Recipient Meeting **Canceled**
- **May 10** – [Computer Modeling for Dispensing and Vaccination Sites \(RealOpt©\) Training](#)

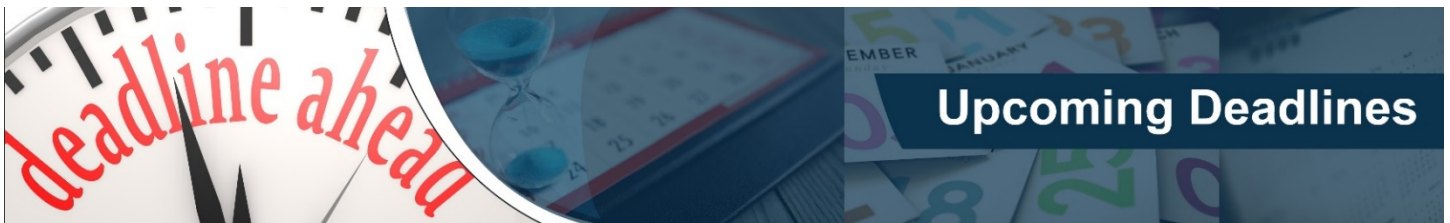
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- **April 23** – CDC CPR Director Position Application Deadline
Physician – [RF-602: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265900](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265900)
Health Scientist – [RF-601: https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265400](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265400)



CDC Releases Final PHEP BP3 Funding Allocations

CDC has released the final PHEP Budget Period 3 (BP3) funding allocations to reflect the increase in the fiscal year 2021 (FY 2021) PHEP appropriation. CDC will award a total of \$636,850,000 in FY 2021 funding for BP3 of the PHEP cooperative agreement. This represents a \$14 million increase over fiscal year 2020 funding for PHEP Budget Period 2 (BP2). The [final BP3 funding allocations](#), which are now available on the CDC website, replace the preliminary planning numbers included in the BP3 continuation guidance CDC released in January.

CDC will use the additional funding to enhance its support of state, local and territorial (SLT) health departments, including increasing base or core funding for the 62 PHEP recipients by 1.3% (\$7.4 million) for a total of \$561.6 million. CDC also will provide a 20% increase (\$10.8 million) in funding to more than 400 localities through the PHEP program's Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) for a total of \$63.7 million in CRI funding. This additional funding is intended to help support preparedness activities across all 15 of CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities](#) within these large metropolitan areas.

The funding increase will also enable CDC to expand its Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) program to develop a national CEFO network that will support the emergency preparedness and response activities of every state, territory, and locality directly funded by the PHEP cooperative agreement. Beginning in July 2021,

CDC will provide centralized PHEP funding to support one existing CEFO in each state or city. Those jurisdictions will recoup their direct assistance funds in their BP3 funding awards.

FY 2021 funding for the 10 Level 1 chemical laboratories in the Laboratory Response Network remains level at \$11.6 million.

While overall PHEP funding increased, 11 states will see minor decreases in their overall funding for BP3 compared with their BP2 funding. This is due to one-time funding the states received in BP2 to replace chemical laboratory equipment. BP2 was the last year of a four-year PHEP initiative to update chemical laboratory equipment.

The PHEP BP3 Notices of Award issued will reflect the final BP3 funding amounts. Any differences will be placed into the “other” cost category as a placeholder. Recipients will have until August 31 to finalize their BP3 work plans and budgets.

PHEP ORR Training Launches April 21 with Special PHEP Connects Webinar

CDC's next PHEP Connects webinar is scheduled for **1 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 21**. This special webinar is the first in a series of five orientation sessions

designed to orient PHEP recipients to CDC's PHEP Operational Readiness Review (ORR) interim guidance, including new concepts and terminology. These sessions are designed to help prepare PHEP recipients to successfully complete an ORR over the course of Budget Period 3 (BP3). During the April 21 webinar, CDC presenter Christopher Reinold will provide an overview of the ORR interim guidance, which CDC released March 19, as well as the PHEP BP3 data submission requirements. CDC encourages PHEP recipients and local planning jurisdictions to attend this initial orientation session. PHEP project officers also will provide continuous individual technical assistance throughout BP3. Additional PHEP ORR training sessions will be held over the next several months. More information is available in the [Online Technical Resources and Assistance Center \(On-TRAC\)](#).



Registration is not required to join the webinar via Adobe Connect. Participants can use the following link to view the webinar or listen to the audio portion via phone line using the following dial-in information.

- Dial in: (888) 455-5125 (Audio only)
- Passcode: 4495815
- Link: <https://adobeconnect.cdc.gov/r60ooq3mlz5/>

The webinar will be recorded and accessible for later viewing. Continuing education credit will not be offered for this presentation. For more information on the PHEP Connects webinar series, contact preparedness@cdc.gov.

ASPR, CDC Cancel HPP-PHEP Recipient Call on April 21

The quarterly HPP-PHEP recipient conference call will **not** be held as scheduled on Wednesday, April 21. ASPR and CDC are planning a virtual HPP-PHEP recipient business meeting in May. Further details will be forthcoming.



CDC Seeks Updated SF-424 Information from Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement Recipients

CDC's Public Health Crisis Response notice of funding opportunity (CDC-RFA-TP18-1802) is designed to quickly provide much-needed funds to jurisdictions in the event of a public health emergency. Keeping current applicant information on file is critical to CDC's ability to rapidly award funds. The current 65 approved but unfunded jurisdictions remain eligible for funding through January 2022. Since the applications on file were submitted in 2018, CDC is requesting that each jurisdiction submit an updated SF-424 application for federal

assistance. This short form provides basic information necessary to issue federal funding during an emergency. The fillable SF-424 is available on grants.gov at [SF-424 Family | GRANTS.GOV](#) and also available as a grant note in GrantSolutions. Jurisdictions should email their signed and completed forms to Shirley K Byrd at skbyrd@cdc.gov no later than **Friday, April 23**.

GSA Clarifies Eligibility for COVID-19 Support Services

The General Services Administration (GSA) has provided additional guidance regarding which entities are eligible to use the COVID-19 professional services support contract available at [Acquisition Gateway \(gsa.gov\)](#). The current listing of eligible organizations is located on GSA's [website](#) and numbers approximately 50,000 entities. They include nearly every U.S. public school district, county, municipality, and public college and university (including university hospitals), as well as state executive departments and federally recognized Indian tribes.

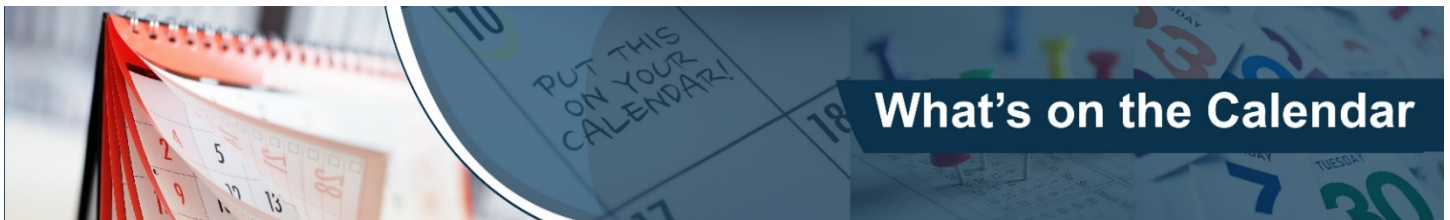
In response to specific questions about hospitals, GSA has clarified that hospitals have access to GSA, but they must currently be legal entities of state or local governments. However, during the extent of the COVID-19 emergency declaration, state and local government entities may make self-determinations of eligibility and should send written confirmation to gsaeligibilitydetermination@gsa.gov. See [40 U.S.C. 502\(c\) and \(d\)](#) for more information. Jurisdictions can find [a sample self-determination email](#) online. An entity using this method simply follows the instructions provided on the website. The eligibility office logs the submissions and, after the COVID-19 emergency declaration is over, GSA will review and make an official determination of eligibility at that time (unless otherwise verified via other efforts). For additional information please contact GSA's [Customer Service Director](#) or preparedness@cdc.gov.

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Expands

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program is in the process of expanding to meet a [White House commitment to increase access to COVID-19 vaccines](#). By Monday, April 19, the program will activate 20,000 additional local pharmacies for a total of nearly 40,000 store locations within the network, helping to ensure at least 90% of Americans live within five miles of a participating pharmacy. Pharmacy partners will continue to follow state eligibility criteria and adjust accordingly as those criteria shift.

April 19 COVID-19 Partner Update Highlights Latest Science on Cleaning, Disinfecting Surfaces

CDC's next weekly COVID-19 Partner Update webinar, "When to Clean, When to Disinfect, and What Science Says about SARS-CoV-2 on Surfaces," **will be held at 3 p.m. EDT on Monday, April 19**. Speakers will share updates on CDC's COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others, and how SARS-CoV-2 impacts cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Register for the event [here](#).



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CDC's Next RealOpt® Training to Be Held May 10

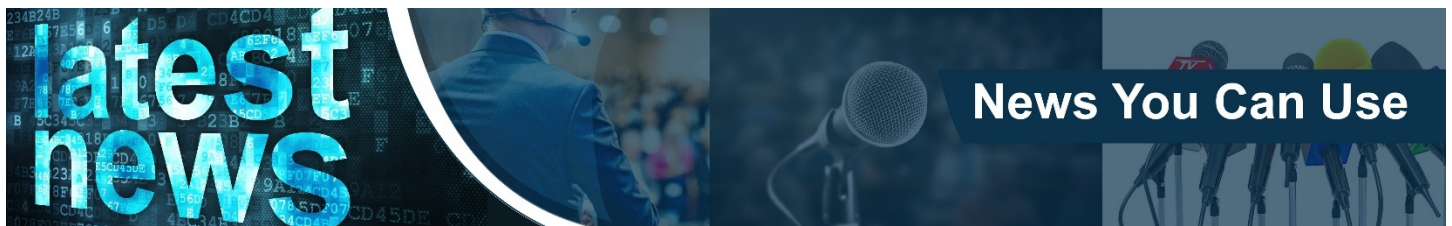
The next CDC virtual instructor-led RealOpt® training session on vaccination and point-of-dispensing (POD) sites will be held at **1 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 10**. Participants will learn the basic components of RealOpt®, a computer modeling program that determines POD or vaccination site staff requirements and examines process efficiencies based on site-specific configurations. With this tool, participants will learn to manipulate existing POD and vaccine flow models and how to run and interpret the performance reports. By the end of the session, participants will have learned how to build or modify their own models to identify where staff should be allocated and how to eliminate bottlenecks and optimize processing times.

CDC encourages POD and vaccination managers, local and state medical countermeasure planners, and other preparedness planners to register for a monthly training session. Registration for the RealOpt® training session is required through [CDC TRAIN](#). Registration deadline is **seven days** prior to the course delivery date. Additional training sessions will be held on the following dates.

- Thursday, June 10
- Thursday, July 8

CDC Launches New Health Equity Web Page

CDC recently launched a new [Health Equity in Action](#) web page about CDC's collaborative efforts to address health disparities among populations at higher risk for COVID-19. CDC and its partners are committed to reducing the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 among populations at increased risk for infection, severe illness, and death. Health Equity in Action highlights some of the multiple CDC efforts in place related to COVID-19 from across CDC's COVID-19 response and partnerships.



CDC Mental Health Survey Closes April 16

U.S. public health workers have until **11:59 p.m. EDT today, Friday, April 16**, to participate in a [CDC survey](#) designed to better understand and address the mental health impact and support needs for these crucial workers who have been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey is intended for all full-time and part-time employees, contractors, fellows, and others who worked in state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments in 2020 and will look at demographics, job categories, and questions to assess symptoms of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). All survey responses are **anonymous**, and no personal identifiers will be collected. Participation is completely voluntary, and participants may withdraw from the survey at any time.

For more information on CDC's mental health study, contact the survey team at eocevent442@cdc.gov.

ASTHO Convenes National Summit on Prioritizing Equity in Public Health

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is convening a national summit from **11 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, April 21**, of state and territorial health officials along with local and federal partners on "Prioritizing Equity in Public Health." The virtual meeting will provide a forum for state and territorial health practitioners to learn about emergent public health issues and apply evidence-based and promising practices to address structural racism and advance health and racial equity. The summit will feature keynote presentations from national thought leaders, breakout discussions, and real-world case examples that can be applied to current public health challenges. **CDC Director Rochelle Walensky** will deliver the opening keynote for the event.

The [draft agenda](#) includes more details on the event, which ASTHO is hosting in partnership with CDC's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. [Register](#) here for the summit.

CDC CPR Director Position Application Closes April 23

CDC is recruiting applicants to serve as director of the [Center for Preparedness and Response](#) (CPR). The director provides leadership in developing, implementing, and maintaining an agency-wide and government-wide comprehensive, all-hazards approach to preparedness and response activities. Other responsibilities include advising senior staff members and key agency officials on all activities that affect CDC-wide preparedness and response activities, policy, programs, projects, and initiatives.

Interested candidates must apply online before **11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, April 23**. More information is available on USAJOBS:

- Physician – RF-602: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265900>
- Health Scientist – RF-601: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/596265400>



CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, April 16](#)
- [Emergency Department Visits for COVID-19 by Race and Ethnicity — 13 States, October–December 2020](#)
- [Trends in Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalizations, by Region — United States, March–December 2020](#)
- [Factors Associated with Participation in Elementary School–Based SARS-CoV-2 Testing — Salt Lake County, Utah, December 2020–January 2021](#)
- [Laboratory Modeling of SARS-CoV-2 Exposure Reduction Through Physically Distanced Seating in Aircraft Cabins Using Bacteriophage Aerosol — November 2020](#)
- [Emergency Department Visits for COVID-19 by Race and Ethnicity — 13 States, October–December 2020](#)
- [Update on Excess Deaths Associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, January 26, 2020–February 27, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- **UPDATED** [Cases in the U.S.](#)
- **UPDATED** [FDA Media Briefing: Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **UPDATED** [Joint CDC and FDA Statement on Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **UPDATED** [Recommendation to Pause Use of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- **UPDATED** [Resources for Jurisdictions, Clinics, and Organizations](#)
- **UPDATED** [COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States](#)
- **UPDATED** [Health Equity](#)
- **UPDATED** [Staffing Resources](#)

CDC Wants to Hear from PHEP Recipients

CDC wants to hear how PHEP jurisdictions are preparing for and responding to incidents, emergencies, and disasters, whether it's the COVID-19 pandemic, recent weather events, or other public health emergencies. Recipients can highlight their experiences in emergency preparedness, response, or recovery by emailing the State and Local Readiness mailbox at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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Center for Preparedness and Response

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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