

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program

February 2026

Every Response is Local

Overview

State and local health departments must be ready to respond to a wide range of emergencies that threaten the health and safety of families and communities. These threats include infectious disease outbreaks, such as measles and emerging risks like H5N1, as well as increasingly frequent natural disasters like floods and wildfires. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding provides essential support, helping health departments strengthen surveillance, coordination, and response capacity so they can act quickly and effectively when public health emergencies arise.

PHEP Program Features

The PHEP program supports 62 state, local, and territorial public health departments, helping them to build and strengthen their abilities to effectively respond to risks, by providing:



GUIDANCE

CDC offers annual evidence-based guidance to help SLT health departments identify and address operational readiness gaps.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CDC subject matter experts provide capacity training webinars and one-on-one technical assistance to strengthen our nation's preparedness and response capabilities.



RESOURCES

CDC provides SLT health departments with staffing, tools, and the latest information to improve readiness. Resources include **preparedness field staff**, such as Career Epidemiology Field Officers and Preparedness Field Assignees, health department liaison officers, and monthly PHEP Connects webinars.



FUNDING

The PHEP cooperative agreement is the only federal source of public health preparedness funding for SLT health departments.

Over the last 25 years,

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) PHEP program has partnered with state, local, and territorial (SLT) health departments to develop strong, response-ready public health systems.



PHEP Recipients

Section 319C-1 of the Public Health Service Act establishes 62 eligible recipients:

- 50 states
- 4 localities
- 8 U.S. territories and freely associated states

Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Recipients

- 50 states and 72 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs)



PHEP Program Impact on Communities

CDC's PHEP program protects communities across the United States, enhancing readiness to save lives and preventing morbidity and mortality during emergencies that exceed the day-to-day capacity of SLT health departments.



National public health preparedness and response standards

Provides SLT health departments with a framework to measure outcomes and drive continuous improvement of preparedness, response, and recovery operations.



National laboratory and epidemiologic surveillance network

Enhances the quick detection and identification of select agents, viruses, and other pathogens.



National stockpile network

Establishes a nationwide network that supports the rapid distribution and dispensing of lifesaving medications and emergency medical supplies to the public.



State and local workforce capacity

Equips communities with emergency management expertise and trained first responders to effectively mitigate the health impacts of life-threatening emergencies.

- The PHEP program funds and supports nearly 5,000 full- and part-time public health preparedness personnel across the country.

Response Readiness Priorities

CDC's Public Health Response Readiness Framework (RRF) focuses on 10 priority areas that are essential for public health systems' ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health threats. The RRF defines excellence in response by focusing on improvements in emergency response operations, including coordinated strategy and outcomes.

1. Prioritize a risk-based approach to planning
2. Enhance partnerships
3. Expand local support
4. Improve administrative and budget preparedness systems
5. Build workforce capacity
6. Modernize data collection and systems
7. Strengthen risk communications activities
8. Address the needs of at-risk populations
9. Advance capacity and capability of public health laboratories
10. Prioritize community recovery efforts



Funding Awarded FY 2025: \$654 million

Base + Population Funding	CRI	Level 1 Chemical Laboratory
\$562 million	\$79 million	\$13 million

Funding is formula-based (noncompetitive)

For more information visit www.cdc.gov/readiness/php/phep



Office of Readiness and Response

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