

## What is PHEP?

CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Division of State and Local Readiness, administers funds for preparedness activities to 62 state, local, and territorial public health systems through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement program. Awardees include state health departments along with select large cities across America and eight U.S. territories and freely associated states. Through the PHEP program, CDC helps public health departments strengthen their abilities to respond to all types of public health threats from Ebola to Zika and build more resilient communities. CDC plays a pivotal role in ensuring that state and local public health systems are prepared for public health emergencies because of its unique abilities to respond to a wide range of threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events that affect the public's health.

## Key Accomplishments of the PHEP Program

Since September 11, 2001, the PHEP program has saved lives by building and maintaining a nationwide public health emergency management system that enables communities to rapidly respond to public health threats. The PHEP program:

- Integrates public health in emergency responses and, in collaboration with partners, leads and coordinates the public health and health care sectors.
- Institutes public health emergency management structures in all 50 states and select local and territorial public health departments capable of leading or supporting public health responses.
- Sustains a nationwide system capable of rapidly distributing and dispensing lifesaving medications and emergency medical supplies to the public.
- Maintains nationwide laboratory and epidemiologic surveillance systems capable of faster detection and identification of public health threats.
- Strengthens the ability of our nation's communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover from public health threats.
- Establishes state and local public health emergency management expertise and trains first responders so that they are capable of mitigating the health effects of life-threatening emergencies in their community.

## Key Messages

- Public health threats are always present. Whether caused by natural, accidental, or intentional means, these threats can lead to the onset of public health incidents.
- Building communities that are prepared to prevent, respond to, and rapidly recover from public health threats is a critical step to protect and secure our nation's public health.
- The September 11 attacks in 2001, the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, and the Ebola and Zika outbreaks underscore the importance of communities being prepared for potential threats.
- Because of its unique abilities to respond to infectious, occupational, or environmental incidents, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plays a pivotal role in ensuring that state, local, and territorial public health systems are prepared for these and other public health incidents.
- CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Division of State and Local Readiness, provides state, local, and territorial public health departments with funding and capacity-building assistance through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement program.
- Through the PHEP program, CDC helps our public health departments build stronger, more protected communities capable of responding to any public health threat such as infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events.
- Public health emergency preparedness is the process of collaborating, planning, training, responding, and evaluating to ensure that people and communities are protected when events occur that threaten public health and safety.