

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program

Protecting America's health, safety, and security to save lives.



The PHEP Program allows our nation to invest in the people, plans, training, and equipment needed to effectively respond to emerging public health threats.

PHEP-Built Capability	Return on PHEP Investment
 Staff Capacity	Trained first responders who reduce health effects of death and illnesses during public health emergencies
 Public Health Emergency Management Infrastructure	Standardized, scalable response systems that can effectively manage public health responses
 Rapid Threat Detection	Quick detection of life-threatening agents, viruses, and other pathogens
 Supplies & Logistics	Delivery of life-saving medicines and medical supplies during an emergency
 Coordinated Responses	Maximizes effectiveness of responses, use of resources, and the number of lives saved

A Lifesaving Investment

The PHEP Program, managed by the Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, allows our nation to invest in the critical public health resources that contribute to our overall national security. State and local public health departments are uniquely positioned as the first line of defense - as responders, outbreak investigators, and agents of recovery. Investing in public health preparedness before an emergency occurs saves lives.

The Challenge

Since 9/11, critical federal preparedness funding has declined by 42%. Cuts to PHEP Program funding has forced PHEP Program awardees to cut specialized positions, staff trainings and exercises, and equipment. A lack of continued, stable, and adequate funding directly diminishes state and local health department capacity to prepare for and respond to emerging threats in the communities they serve.

Improvements in Public Health Preparedness Since 9/11

PHEP Awardees Who:	Then	Now
Can mobilize staff during an emergency	20%	98%
Have an Incident Command System with pre-assigned roles in place	5%	100%
Include collaboration with healthcare agencies in their preparedness plans	8%	92%
Have sufficient storage and distribution capacity for critical medicines and supplies	0%	98%

The Opportunity

Now is the time to renew the federal commitment to the state and local public health departments responsible for safeguarding the public's health.

PHEP Program funding must be maintained to continue advancing our nation's health security.



Stories from the Field

2015 Wildfires

Situation

During the summer of 2015, wildfires swept across Washington, burning over 300 homes and 1.1 million acres.



Intervention

PHEP Program funding allowed the Washington State Department of Health to support large-scale evacuations of a hospital and multiple nursing homes and provide the medical resources and regulatory waivers to keep them operating. PHEP Program support made it possible to work with local jurisdictions and healthcare facilities to acquire and deploy critical asthma medications and ensure that rural areas continued to get federal Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) services.

Impact

The PHEP Program supports ongoing training and mobilization of Incident Management Teams to coordinate statewide health and medical response.

PHEP Program Funding Received



The PHEP Program in Action

Key responses that saved lives due to PHEP Program support:

- 2017 Hantavirus & Mumps
- 2016 Tuberculosis Outbreak, Lead Contamination, Zika Virus, & Radiological Materials Contamination Incident
- 2015 Eastern Washington Wildfires, Mass Casualty Bus Incident, E. coli, & Salmonella
- 2014 Ebola Virus Disease, Eastern Washington Firestorm, Oso/State Road 530 Landslide, & Measles
- 2012 Snowstorm
- 2009-2010 H1N1 Flu Pandemic
- 2007 Yakima County Plane Crash
- 2006 Hanukkah Eve Windstorm

Critical Needs

The PHEP Program supports the following public health and safety functions that are jeopardized when funding is cut.



Biosurveillance

Ongoing resources are required to ensure that public health lab personnel are regularly trained and exercised, and sufficient staff is available 24/7/365 to test for bio-threat agents, high consequence pathogens (like Ebola and pandemic influenza), and other public health threats. Automated lab systems also need to be maintained and upgraded in a timely fashion to rapidly detect and minimize the spread of diseases.



Countermeasures & Mitigation

Sustained PHEP Program funding is needed to support and improve the plans and processes necessary to get lifesaving medicines and supplies to the public during a public health emergency.



Incident Management

Maintaining a permanent state of readiness and surge capacity is essential to ensure communities are ready to respond to any emergency. A reduction in funds will result in inability to maintain this state of readiness and impact our ability to quickly activate preparedness plans and mobilize our trained response staff.