

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 have 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.

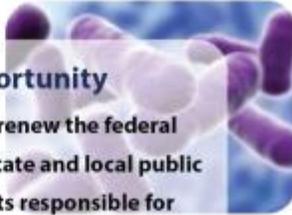
Improvements in Public Health Preparedness Since 9/11

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%

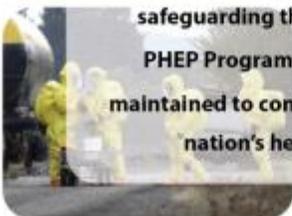


The Opportunity

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

2015-16 Drug Diversion Associated Hepatitis C Investigation and Response

Situation

During a routine screening for blood donation, an individual was found to be HCV positive, even though no behavioral risk factors were identified. Subsequent investigation revealed drug diversion by a hospital health care worker during a recent emergency department visit was the likely source of infection.

Intervention

The scale and scope of the investigation, numbering over 7,200 potential exposures, and numerous private and public partners, necessitated activation of a Unified Command and use of the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage the event. A multi-jurisdictional ICS was active from August 2015 to March 2016.

Impact

As a result of the response, over 3,400 individuals were tested for HCV, and seven cases were definitively linked to the diversion activity. The value of using ICS to manage disease outbreak events was clear, allowed for multi-agency coordination, unified efforts, and "one voice" public messaging.



The PHEP Program in Action

Key responses that saved lives due to PHEP Program support:

- 2017 Measles Outbreak
- 2015-2016 Hepatitis C Response
- 2014-2015 Ebola Virus Disease
- 2016-2017 Zika Virus
- 2015 Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill
- 2013 Ricin Exposure
- 2016 Utah Lake Algae Bloom
- 2015 Southwest Utah Flooding
- 2009-2010 H1N1 Influenza

Critical Needs

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



Biosurveillance

Utah depends on these funds for the staff, systems, and equipment needed to gather, analyze, test, and communicate essential information pertaining to diseases and human health threats.



Countermeasures & Mitigation

Utah uses these funds to ensure that each local health department has plans and procedures in place to effectively respond to save lives of those in their community through pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions.



Incident Management

Because of the PHEP funds, Utah is ready at the state health department and at each of Utah's local health departments to manage incidents and disasters of public health significance using incident command systems.



Community Resilience

Utah's local health departments have public health emergency response plans in place, clear understanding of community threats and needs, and are prepared and capable to respond to save lives and recover from emergencies.



Information Management

Plans and systems are tested and ready to share information to aid responders and the public in the event of a public health emergency to protect them from illness and injury, and emergency risk communication systems are refined.



Surge Management

Health department staff work routinely with the health care delivery system to ensure medical services can be expanded to deliver care in large scale emergencies, ensuring the right care, for the right patient, at the right time.