






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%



Stories from the Field

2015-16 Dengue Outbreak and Zika Virus Threat

Situation

The State of Hawaii, a crossroads for millions of visitors annually from around the globe, was already facing its worst outbreak of dengue fever in decades when the threat of Zika and the potential for birth defects brought major new challenges in the fight against arboviruses.

Intervention

To combat the risks posed by dengue, Zika, and other arboviruses carried by local *Aedes* mosquitoes, PHEP funding and staff supported laboratory testing, facilitated epidemiological surveillance and investigation, and public outreach to help the state fight against mosquito-borne diseases.

Impact

With PHEP Program support, the dengue outbreak was successfully halted. Efforts across the state to fight *Aedes* mosquito-borne illnesses are ongoing, as Hawaii continues to guard against the introduction of imported pathogens like dengue and Zika.



The PHEP Program in Action

Key responses that saved lives due to PHEP Program support:

- 2016 Hepatitis A Outbreak
- 2015–16 Dengue Fever Outbreak
- 2014 Hurricane Anna
- 2016 Hurricane Darby
- 2014 Hurricane Iselle
- 2013 Molasses Spill

Critical Needs

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



Biosurveillance

Supports Hawaii's disease outbreak control efforts including laboratory testing and epidemiological surveillance and investigation. Allows rapid response to infectious disease threats including emerging infectious diseases.



Countermeasures & Mitigation

Enables us to engage public and private partners in training and exercises to receive and distribute Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) assets, to protect the state in the event of a terrorist attack or other public health emergency.



Incident Management

Helps us train thousands of Hawaii Department of Health employees in the Incident Command System so they can be called upon in public health emergencies and support work to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.



Community Resilience

Raises awareness about individual and community disaster preparedness; provides information and educational materials and resources to help the public make informed decisions during a public health emergency.



Information Management

Expands department communications interoperability and our ability to issue rapid emergency alerts and notifications to sustain critical information sharing capabilities and assure situational awareness during response and recovery.



Surge Management

Supports training and exercises for Hawaii Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to support mass vaccination, medical countermeasure distribution exercises, public health campaigns, and public health assessments and investigations.

The PHEP Program strengthens the ability of our nation's communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover from public health threats, *saving lives 24/7/365.*

www.cdc.gov/phpr/readiness