

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 recipients 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

2017 Great American Solar Eclipse

Situation

In 2017, a solar eclipse captured the interest of America, with millions of people rushing to the “path of totality,” which included more than 365 miles across central Wyoming.

Intervention

PHEP-funded staff helped areas of the state expecting an influx of people by ensuring consistent communication via satellite phones, keeping the community informed on eye safety and other prevention measures, and prepared for hospital surge. Additionally, PHEP funds allowed for stockpiles of antibiotics, other medical supplies, the Wyoming Medical Station, and the vehicles to transport them as necessary, to be pre-staged in centralized locations.

Impact

Due to such extensive pre-planning, Wyoming safely accommodated 1 million visitors and residents, which is approximately double the state’s population, during the eclipse without incident.



The PHEP Program in Action

Key responses that saved lives due to PHEP program support:

- 2017 Great American Solar Eclipse
- 2015 Niobrara County Flooding
- 2015 Desert Health Group Nursing Home Closures
- 2014 I-80 MCI #1 and #2 (multiple vehicle accidents / blizzard)
- 2013 Ice Jam Flooding
- 2013 Cassava Root Poisoning
- 2010 Jamestown Rio Vista Reservoir Water Contamination
- 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Influenza

Critical Needs

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



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 impact our ability to quickly activate preparedness plans and mobilize our trained response staff.



Countermeasures & Mitigation

Sustained funding is needed to support complex exercises to test and continuously improve public health preparedness plans and to maintain cold-storage needs. Wyoming is required to be prepared to distribute a large range of life saving medications and supplies across approximately 98,000 square miles to impacted communities in frontier jurisdictions during a public health emergency. Additional support is provided to the two Cities Readiness Initiative jurisdictions to sustain the capabilities and capacity of the communities within those jurisdictions, which are home to approximately 30% of the state’s population.



Surge Management

Services available, regardless of the size of an event or incident, would not be available without ongoing training, support, equipment and supply caches, such as the Wyoming Medical Stations, provided by the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement.

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.*