

DSLR

FRIDAY UPDATE

September 29, 2023

CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program is a critical source of funding, guidance, and technical assistance for state, local, and territorial public health departments to strengthen their public health preparedness capabilities and improve their response readiness. The Division of State and Local Readiness (DSL)R Friday Update provides information and resources for PHEP recipients and other preparedness planners. Please share the newsletter with your colleagues.

For more information, visit the [CDC State and Local Readiness website](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

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DSLR FRIDAY UPDATE



In This Issue

Upcoming Deadlines

- **September 29** – 2022 Public Health Crisis Response NOFO Application
- **September 30** – PHEP BP4 Federal Financial Reports
- **September 30** – BP5 LRN-C Laboratory Quarterly Response Reports

PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

- DSLR Reorganization Scheduled to Take Effect October 1
- CDC Plans Action Plan Module Training for PHEP Recipients

What's on the Calendar

- **October 11** – [CDC PHEP Connects Webinar](#) (1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT)
- **October 16** – [CDC Action Plan Module Training](#) (1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT)
- **October 16** – [CDC Action Plan Module Training](#) (7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. EDT)
- **October 18** – [HPP-PHEP Recipient Call](#) (2 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT)

Emergency Response Activities

- CDC Plans October 4 Briefing on Fall and Winter Virus Season
- Free COVID-19 Test Kits Now Available Again to Households

Preparedness and Response Resources

- NACCHO Announces RFP on Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Planning Pilot

News You Can Use

- ORR Awards Contracts to Facilitate Regional Public Health Preparedness Efforts
- CDC Announces Funding for Outbreak Response and Disease Modeling National Network

Online Resources

- CDC MMWR Reports



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- **September 29** – 2022 Public Health Crisis Response NOFO Application
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PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

DSLRL Reorganization Scheduled to Take Effect October 1

On October 1, CDC's Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) is scheduled to officially begin to operate under the new organizational structure that was first announced to PHEP recipients in August. DSLRL's new structure will better position the division to support the response readiness of state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) jurisdictions. More specifically, this restructuring will enable DSLRL to implement more effectively its new Public Health Response Readiness Framework and to better develop and deliver preparedness and response technical assistance to PHEP recipients.

Moving forward, DSLRL will include the following four branches.

1. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Development Branch (CTAB)
2. Field Assignments Branch (FAB)
3. Grants Management and Fiscal Strategy Branch (GFS Branch)
4. Jurisdictional Readiness and Response Support Branch (JRR Branch)

DSLRL's current Evaluation and Analysis Branch is also transitioning. A small Evaluation and Analysis Unit will be part of DSLRL's Office of the Director. Most of the branch's current staff members are transitioning to the new Division of Readiness and Response Science in CDC's Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) where they will provide evaluation expertise and support for PHEP and other ORR programs.

DSLRL provided PHEP directors with more details on DSLRL's reorganization in a September 27 email.

Questions regarding DSLRL's reorganization can be directed to preparedness@cdc.gov.

CDC Plans Action Plan Module Training for PHEP Recipients

CDC plans to conduct two training sessions on the new Action Plan (AP) Module for PHEP recipient staff responsible for completing action plans for their jurisdiction. This instructor-led training will provide participants with an orientation to the AP Module located on the PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS)

platform. The AP Module enables PHEP recipients to identify areas for improvement in their public health preparedness and response programs and document improvement activities. Recipients can also use the module to request technical assistance to address identified gaps or to improve upon existing successes. PHEP recipient staff responsible for action plans in their jurisdiction should attend this training to become familiar with using the AP Module in collaboration with CDC reviewers to create, update, and track action plan items and activities throughout the budget period.

Both training sessions will cover the same information, with recipients welcome to participate in one or both sessions.

Participant Information

- 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 16: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1619813874>
- 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 16: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607648578>

Recipients who need reasonable accommodations to participate in training should contact dslrtraining@cdc.gov at least **two weeks** before the training date. For additional information about this training, contact dslrtraining@cdc.gov.



CDC Plans October 4 Briefing on Fall and Winter Virus Season

CDC plans to conduct a briefing from **noon to 1:30 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 4**, to provide updates on the fall and winter virus season landscape. CDC Director Mandy K. Cohen will participate in the live webinar, which will include a sneak peek at CDC's new communications efforts to address the spread of flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and resources that will be available for partners. This briefing is intended to inform federal agencies, state and local health departments, medical societies, private sector and nonprofit organizations, and members of the media.

Register [here](#) for the briefing and discussion on preparations for the expected increase of respiratory illnesses this fall and winter. CDC will take questions in advance. Please email any initial questions for discussion during the briefing to cdcdirectorbriefing@cdc.gov by **Friday, September 29**.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits Now Available Again to U.S. Households

U.S. households are now able to order four free tests COVID-19 rapid tests through [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). These tests will detect the [currently circulating COVID-19 variants](#). Individuals are encouraged to use the free tests immediately to prepare for travel and gatherings with friends and family throughout the 2023 holiday season. Visit the [Food and Drug Administration website](#) to check the expiration dates of COVID-19 tests.



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Preparedness and Response Resources

NACCHO Announces RFP on Suicide, Overdose, and Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Planning Pilot

With support from CDC, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is offering a [funding opportunity](#) to provide technical assistance to help local health departments and their communities understand and strengthen their capacity to address the intersection of suicide, overdose, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The goal of this project is to assist pilot sites in applying a community-based prevention framework.

NACCHO will host an informational webinar **from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. EDT on Thursday, October 12**. The webinar will be recorded. [Register here](#) to attend the webinar.

For full details about the funding opportunity, review the [Request for Proposals](#). Applications must be submitted using [NACCHO's online portal](#) no later than **5 p.m. EDT on Friday, October 27**. For additional information, contact NACCHO's Injury and Violence Prevention Team at IVP@naccho.org.



News You Can Use

ORR Awards Contracts to Facilitate Regional Public Health Preparedness Efforts

In September, CDC's Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) awarded eight contracts totaling \$7,312,924 to prepare for the establishment of a national network of regional Centers for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response. In the near future, contractors plan to contact PHEP directors in the seven awarded regions to seek representatives to serve on regional coordinating groups. The coordinating groups will work with contractors to develop five-year regional public health emergency preparedness and response work plans.

The eight contracts awarded by ORR's Office of Applied Research (OAR) will support the creation of seven regional PHEP work plans; one contract will support national coordination, technical assistance, and training for the regional activities. Final work plans developed through these contracts will guide the work of the regional network that will be established in fiscal year 2024 via a competitive notice of funding opportunity to be published in 2024. The centers will build on the work of the regional coordinating bodies to implement the work plans to advance regional preparedness and response capabilities, with a focus on increasing uptake of evidence-informed preparedness and response programs.

Regional work plan contracts were awarded to the following institutions in seven of the 10 HHS regions. No proposals were received for the remaining three regions.

- Cadmus Group: National Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Training
- Johns Hopkins University: HHS Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill: HHS Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
- Tulane University: HHS Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
- University of Nebraska Medical Center: HHS Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
- University of Utah: HHS Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
- Public Health Institute: HHS Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, 6 USAPI)

- University of Washington: HHS Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)

Congress directed CDC to establish the 10 Centers for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response in Section 2231 of the federal authorization for fiscal year 2023 enacted in December 2022. PHEP directors can direct questions regarding the regional network to ORROAR@cdc.gov.

CDC Announces Funding for Outbreak Response and Disease Modeling National Network

CDC's [Center for Forecasting and Analytics](#) (CFA) has released 13 funding awards to establish a first-of-its-kind national [Outbreak Analytics and Disease Modeling Network](#). The awards, totaling \$262.5 million in funding over a five-year period, will support state and local decision-makers in developing and implementing new tools to detect, respond to, and mitigate public health emergencies more effectively. The program will support building and scaling needed capabilities best suited for their respective jurisdictions, based on the latest available information.

Reflecting representation from state health departments, tribal organizations, academic and private sector partners, the 13 recipients include:

- Emory University
- Northeastern University
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Kaiser Permanente Southern California
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of Michigan School of Public Health
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Minnesota
- Clemson University
- University of Utah
- International Responder Systems
- University of Texas at Austin
- Johns Hopkins University

The network will include innovators from public, private, and academic sectors to design, prototype, test, and scale up advances in data modeling tools and technology that can be used to support decision makers. The grantees will be organized into three categories of performance, supporting three priority program actions:

- Innovators: these grantees will develop methods, tools, technologies, and other products to support emergency response.
- Integrators: these grantees will take lessons learned and techniques from Innovators and test them in small-scale deployments.
- Implementors: these grantees will take tested best practices and scale up to larger jurisdictions and partners.

Read the full press release at [CDC announces \\$262M in Funding to Support National Network for Outbreak Response and Disease Modeling](#).



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, September 29](#)
- [Clinicians' recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination among reproductive-age women](#)
- [Inequities in COVID-19 vaccine coverage](#)
- [Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy for infants](#)

- [Flu, Tdap, and COVID-19 vaccination coverage in pregnancy](#)
- [Notice: ACIP pneumococcal vaccine recommendation for children](#)

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