

July 30, 2010

TO: All Local Health Departments
FROM: Carol Moehrle, NACCHO President and Robert Pestronk, NACCHO Executive Director

Late yesterday, CDC informed all grantees for the Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) program that spending must cease by August 30, 2010. A no-cost extension of 30 days from today's scheduled end date has been approved and PHER funds can be used up until that date. Formal written notification is expected today. CDC asked grantees to submit in writing any questions concerning allowable expenses for H1N1 activities during this time. Please contact your state health department for all additional information you need.

NACCHO, ASTHO, and other public health partners advocated vigorously using all viable strategies for a longer no-cost extension. We believe we made a compelling, well-supported case and are disappointed that this decision, taken at a high level by the Administration, does not permit continued spending of PHER funds to sustain the improvements that health departments achieved. No reasons for the decision have been given and none are expected.

Local health departments undertook extraordinary efforts to respond to the H1N1 emergency under particularly adverse circumstances, including delays in vaccine delivery and strained public health budgets. The public perception that the emergency has ended and that the public health system performed successfully is due to your professionalism and commitment. Thank you for all your hard work, then and now.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

© Copyright 2010 NACCHO