

Project Public Health Ready's State-Supported Model



What is PPHR?

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness and assists local health departments (LHDs), or groups of LHDs collaborating as a region, in responding to emergencies. The PPHR criteria are nationally recognized standards for local public health preparedness. Each of the three PPHR project goals—all-hazards preparedness planning, workforce capacity development, and demonstration of readiness through exercises or real events—has a comprehensive list of standards that agencies must meet to achieve PPHR recognition. PPHR builds preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model that can be maintained within the participating LHD and region after recognition is achieved.

By working with response partners to develop and enhance their plans and processes to meet the PPHR criteria, agencies strengthen working relationships and improve their integration within the preparedness community. For more information, visit www.naccho.org/pphr.

State-Supported Model

All new agencies seeking PPHR recognition must do so as part of a cohort. The majority of new applicants implement the program through the state-supported model. The model requires that the PPHR application process for all LHDs within the state be coordinated by a state-level entity, such as a state health department or State Association of County and City Health Officials (SACCHO). This approach has many benefits to both applicants and their states, including the following:

- Encourages collaboration and coordination between state and local health departments for emergency preparedness planning, as well as between LHDs in the same state.
- Assists in identifying resources and resource gaps within the state.
- Provides a framework for the state to measure progress and ensure that local public health preparedness is meeting national standards.
- Aligns with federal plans and guidance, including CDC's public health preparedness capabilities, the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP), the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Tool, and the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
- Demonstrates return on investment of federal and state funding.

The state-supported model requires that a state identify a minimum number of applicants, as determined by NACCHO, to submit PPHR applications. Whether applying to PPHR is mandatory or voluntary and whether applications are funded at the state or local level are matters decided by each individual state. The coordinating state agency must also identify a state lead to be a liaison between LHD applicants and NACCHO.

Vision

The vision of PPHR is that LHDs will be fully integrated into the response community and prepared to respond to any emergency.

State Lead Role

The state lead plays a critical role as the primary contact point for both PPHR applicants and NACCHO. State lead responsibilities include the following:

- Coordinating and hosting monthly conference calls with PPHR applicants.
- Working with NACCHO to provide ongoing technical assistance to applicants as needed and appropriate.
- Providing state-level preparedness subject matter expertise and resources, such as state response plans and templates, as needed.
- Ensuring the timely submission of PPHR applications, forms, and fees.
- Disseminating relevant communications from NACCHO to applicants.
- Coordinating with NACCHO to implement PPHR with additional cohorts of applicants as appropriate.

There is no single profile for a PPHR state lead. The role is generally held by someone knowledgeable about public health preparedness planning at both the local and state level. Job titles of current PPHR state leads include Preparedness Planner, Emergency Planning and Exercise Manager, Regional Emergency Coordinator, and PHEP Coordinator. The role may even be split amongst multiple staff or rotated among staff every 1-2 years to distribute the workload.

Resources and Support

NACCHO provides extensive resources and opportunities for support to assist state leads in their role.

- NACCHO organizes quarterly calls and an annual in-person meeting of all state leads to share challenges and best practices.
- NACCHO staff attend the monthly calls with applicants organized by the state leads to answer applicant questions directly.
- NACCHO staff are available for technical assistance questions regarding PPHR application content or processes.
- NACCHO continuously shares guidance, updates, and reminders with state leads.
- NACCHO maintains a SharePoint site where resources can be accessed at any time.

Getting Started

Anyone interested in implementing PPHR in their state should contact NACCHO staff for information and materials to share with potential applicants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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