

2019 MRC Deployment-Ready Pilot Sites Project



HHS ASPR Mission and Vision

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Dr. Kadlec, announced a new mission and vision¹ for ASPR this year, centered around four pillars: Providing Strong Leadership; Sustaining Robust and Reliable Public Health Security Capabilities; Advancing an Innovative Medical Countermeasures Enterprise; and, Building a Regional Disaster Health Response System (RDHRS). The RDHRS initiative daims to address “gaps in coordinated patient care during disasters...[to] create a more coherent, comprehensive, and capable healthcare disaster response system that can respond to 21st century health security threats and integrate into daily care delivery systems.”³ Program goals are to improve organization and coordination; improve situational awareness; identify and further develop highly specialized clinical capabilities; and, increase healthcare coalition participation: all of which the MRC is uniquely poised to support.

Project Overview

NACCHO designed the MRC Deployment Ready Pilot Site Project with the RDHRS initiative in mind. MRC units and volunteers play niche roles with exceptional local knowledge and contacts to support a wide range of local and regional preparedness and response needs. The project will support the integration and deployment of MRC units in local and multi-jurisdictional medical/public health emergency responses. NACCHO plans to work with experienced MRC units to document the niche roles MRC units currently play across the country and identify how these capabilities can be scaled and replicated to address local, state, and regional response needs across the country. Selected pilot sites will participate in monthly calls, present project progress at NACCHO’s Annual Preparedness Summit, develop MRC mission sets, and provide recommendations for an MRC deployment readiness guide to be shared with the MRC network.

Goals and Activities

The primary objectives of the MRC Deployment Readiness pilot sites are to:

1. Improve bidirectional communication between MRC units and external stakeholders to promote the MRC’s capability to support and respond to medical and public health emergencies at the local, state, and regional level including federal partners.
2. Leverage, build, or augment mission sets to support multi-jurisdiction all-hazard responses.
3. Build or augment deployment readiness standards to successfully deploy MRC volunteers for local, state, and EMAC emergency responses.

Range of Funding and Timeline

Selected MRC units will receive up to \$20,000 from NACCHO to serve as pilot sites and develop resources associated with project goals from January 2019 through June 2019.

NACCHO Points of Contact

Nick Boukas
Director
Public Health Preparedness
nboukas@naccho.org

Kathy Deffer
Senior Program Analyst
Medical Reserve Corps
kdeffer@naccho.org

Kamya Raja
Program Analyst
Medical Reserve Corps
kraj@naccho.org

2019 MRC Deployment-Ready Pilot Sites

Site Selection

NACCHO selected seven experienced MRC units to serve as pilot sites based on multiple factors including 2017 and 2018 MRC emergency and non-emergency response unit activity reports, unit size, diverse volunteer engagement activities, and geographic location relative to recent large-scale disasters.

Selected Pilot Sites		
Mission Set	MRC Unit	Supporting Activities
Animal Response Team	Oklahoma Region 7 - Tulsa MRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Animal Response Team for Hurricane Harvey: evacuation, care, and relocation of 300 homeless animals
Healthcare Coalition Alliance	Snohomish County MRC (WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active engagement and training with Health Care Coalition (HCC) response planning Trained Health Care Coalition Response Team Previous emergency response for a major mudslide Participation in regional full-scale exercises with community partners
Hurricane Response	Brazoria MRC (TX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurricane Harvey shelter operations support Animal shelter support Hurricane evacuation HUB support Post-recovery case management, well water testing, recovery hotline support Demonstrated flexibility to respond to community needs
Multiple Emergency Responses	Manasota MRC (FL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller unit demonstrating diversity of emergency and non-emergency responses for local and wide-scale responses Staffing of special needs shelter for Hurricane Irma Responder rehab for five-alarm fire
NDMS Response	Midlands Public Health Reserve Corps (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDMS Patient Reception Center and coordination deployment for Hurricane Maria Engagement with HCC
Shelter Operations Support	Calcasieu MRC (LA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up/operated shelters for displaced Texas residents Provided a medical and special needs clinic within the mass care shelter Provided triage support for five days at an evacuation hub to relocate displaced citizens following Hurricane Harvey
Wildfire Response	Contra Costa County MRC (CA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployed medical team outside of local jurisdiction for nine days to provide shelter medical support during wildfires Extensive medical volunteer steady state engagement activities Incorporates core competencies into training and steady state engagement activities

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT NACCHO'S MRC WEBPAGE:

<https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness/medical-reserve-corps>

References

- <https://www.phe.gov/about/aspr/Pages/About-ASPR.aspx>
- <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/RDHRS/Pages/default.aspx>
- ASPR Regional Disaster Health Response System: An Overview <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/RDHRS/Pages/rdhrs-overview.aspx>

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