



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

Marion County MRC Rebuilds Unit

The Marion County MRC (OH) was neglected for several years. When Unit Coordinator Carlie Rees took on the position last year, she wanted to revitalize the county's volunteer program. Her first break came from her regional coordinator, Melissa Watt, who provided her with an overview of the nationwide MRC Program, available resources and familiarized her with some of the other units in Region V.

Rees' priorities in the restoration of the Marion County MRC unit are volunteer recruitment and engagement. The unit's current volunteer base is largely made up of nurses, and her goal is to diversify their volunteer base so they can get involved in a myriad of community events. They also want to focus on recruiting both college and high school-aged students, and have contacted area schools to participate in job and volunteer fairs. They know volunteering for the MRC can provide a valuable learning and mentoring opportunity for students who are looking into a medical career. They've also contacted their health department's partner organizations, like the local healthcare coalition and Salvation Army, to advertise volunteering for the MRC, including law enforcement, veterinarians, and veterans.

While working on volunteer recruitment, the Marion County MRC wants to keep its volunteers engaged during times when there isn't an emergency. They've partnered with their local Red Cross chapter to make trainings and exercises open to both groups of volunteers. The MRC is housed within the local health department, and will be an active participant in all their full-scale exercises as well.

Marion County is also looking to get involved on the non-preparedness side of public health. They are hoping to launch a program to combat chronic disease and obesity, and are working with neighboring Knox County to address heroin abuse in their community. While rebuilding their MRC unit is a long process, new and established partnerships are an integral part of it.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Tomorrow is the Last Day To Apply for a Challenge Award

The deadline to apply for an MRC Challenge Award has been **EXTENDED** to **11:55pm EST, Friday, February 5**. As you finish your application, make sure to visit www.mrcnaccho.org to view great [learning resources](#), the most recent [MRC Awards webinar](#), and [frequently asked questions](#).

We hope you will take this extra time to finalize your application if you haven't already done so. If you have additional questions, contact NACCHO at mrc@naccho.org. NACCHO's hours are 8:30am-5:00pm EST. Please allow 48 hours for a member of our team to get back to you.

Announcements

MRC New Leader Orientation Scheduled for February 11

The next MRC New Leader Orientation is Thursday, February 11 at 12:30pm EST. The training is meant for new unit leaders and those who would like a refresher. The webinar will deliver basic information about the MRC program, including its history and mission. The webinar will also share resources, tools, and available support to unit leaders as they embark on their new position.

The webinar is hosted by CAPT Rob Tosatto. After the webinar, unit leaders should follow up with their respective Regional Coordinators, State Coordinators, and local MRC network. [Register for the meeting.](#)

2016 Preparedness Summit Schedule Available

NACCHO released the [full schedule](#) for the 2016 Preparedness Summit today. The online and interactive schedule allows users to search and browse for Summit sessions, review session and presenter descriptions, and set up a personal itinerary for the conference. This year's Summit will focus on the importance of building prepared and resilient communities that can recover quickly from disasters.

Search for the Medical Reserve Corps to find MRC-related sessions that might interest you!

CDC Releases 2016 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the [2016 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness](#) on January 28, 2016. The report shows how federal investments enhance our nation's ability to respond to public health threats and emergencies. It covers activities that occurred in 2014 and 2015, including the Ebola response.

The report is broken up based on the CDC's Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response's (OPHPR) three overarching priorities:

1. Improving health security at home and around the world
2. Protecting people from public health threats
3. Strengthening public health through collaboration

View the report and its companion fact sheets [here](#).

What are Your Plans for National Infant Immunization Week?

[National Infant Immunization Week](#) (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and to celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting health communities. NIIW is coming soon on April 16-23, 2016, and we want to find out what local health departments have planned for the week! Share your ideas with NACCHO [here](#). For more questions or to find out more about available NIIW resources, please email kdrezner@naccho.org.



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at ajordan@naccho.org.