



**Vector Control Collaborative: A Vector Control and Surveillance
Mentorship Program
*Request for Applications***

EXTENDED: Applications due February 21, 2022, by 11:59 pm PST

[Click here to download the application](#)

BACKGROUND

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports local health departments in protecting their communities from bacterial and viral diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks, rodents, and other emerging vectors. NACCHO and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) have partnered to establish a framework of necessary operational capabilities for vector control programs based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) principles and aligned with the [American Mosquito Control Association](#). The ten capabilities are as follows:

Core Capabilities

- Capability 1: Routine mosquito surveillance through standardized trapping and species identification;
- Capability 2: Treatment decisions using surveillance data;
- Capability 3: Larviciding, adulticiding, or both;
- Capability 4: Routine vector control activities (e.g., chemical, biological, source reduction, or environmental management);
- Capability 5: Pesticide resistance testing;

Supplemental Capabilities

- Capability 6: Licensed pesticide application;
- Capability 7: Vector control activities other than chemical control (e.g., biological source reduction or water management);
- Capability 8: Community outreach and education campaigns regarding mosquito-borne diseases, how they spread, and how to prevent infection;
- Capability 9: Regular communication with local health departments regarding surveillance and epidemiology; and
- Capability 10: Outreach (e.g., communication and/or cooperation) with nearby vector control programs.

In 2017, [NACCHO assessed vector control programs across the United States](#) and found that 84% of surveyed vector control programs needed improvement related to one or more core vector control and surveillance capabilities. The results of this assessment and lessons learned from responses such as the Zika virus epidemic indicated a need for further programmatic and educational support for vector control programs nationwide. A follow-up assessment in 2020 showed preliminary results that indicate improvement across the field but showed that a substantial percentage of programs still do not have the capacity for the five core activities, with a notable gap in terms of capacity for pesticide resistance testing.

Therefore, NACCHO and CDC have established the Vector Control Collaborative (VCC) to match local vector control programs with demonstrated expertise in the ten capabilities with vector control programs currently looking for guidance, tools and resources, and recommendations to build program capability. Since inception of the VCC in 2018, NACCHO has funded 14 local vector control organizations across five states to provide technical assistance or receive peer-to-peer mentorship with the aim of increasing program proficiency in vector surveillance and control.

Participants in the 2022 VCC Cohort will be provided with a mentor who will visit their local program to provide on-site technical assistance in vector surveillance and control (*all travel is subject to local or federal COVID-19 safety procedures*). Selected programs will also be awarded funds to visit their mentor's site and shadow their program. To learn more about site-visits and other expectations regarding the VCC, please refer to this [detailed guide from NACCHO](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL MENTOR/MENTEE SPOTS ARE FILLED OR THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EARLY SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Eligibility

Eligible programs must

- Represent a vector control program housed within a local health department or other local government department. “Local” is here defined as organizations working at county, city, or community levels. Private vector control entities are not eligible for funding through this opportunity;
- Be staff or a manager of a local vector control organization or program;
- Mentors: Applicants applying to serve as mentors should demonstrate program expertise across core and supplemental capabilities;
- Mentees: Applicants applying to become mentees should demonstrate gaps in program expertise in one or more of the five core capabilities.

B. Funding Availability

Selected programs will be awarded up to \$10,000 in grant funding. NACCHO will issue four awards for the 2022 VCC Cohort, with a goal of creating two mentor-mentee pairs. The performance period for this award is March 7, 2022 – June 30, 2022. NACCHO will award funds based on the completion of the program application and the proposed scope of work.

Program participants may not use funds on any of the following:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Donations and contributions
- Entertainment costs
- Food
- Fundraising
- Goods and services for personal use
- Losses on other sponsored agreements or contracts
- Pre-Award Costs
- Selling and marketing
- Gift cards

C. Application Procedure

- Applicants must complete the program application which includes contact information, background, program self-assessment, and statement of work.
- **NOTE:** If you are not applying as an employee of a local health department, you must include a letter of support [no more than one page] from your local health authority describing how the local health department and vector control program will collaborate to improve jurisdictional capacity to prevent and respond to vector-borne threats. Your local health authority may be a health commissioner, a departmental director of environmental health, or another representative with appropriate decision-making authority.
- This is a competitive grant process. **EXTENDED DEADLINE: Applicants must submit their completed application via email to vectorcontrol@naccho.org by 11:59 p.m. PST, Monday, February 21, 2022.**
- **Applications open until mentor/mentee spots are filled or the deadline has passed, whichever comes first. Early submission of applications strongly encouraged.**
- Applicants will be notified of their selection status via email no later than March 7, 2022. Applications will be reviewed and awarded on rolling basis.

D. Technical Assistance

- a. Additional technical assistance will be available to mentees throughout the program period. Specific areas of technical assistance include:
 - i. NACCHO administrative support to include facilitation of meetings, webinars, and project conference calls.
 - ii. NACCHO technical support and guidance for any needs, including resources.

- iii. Access to CDC Vector Borne Disease Specialists and Entomologists to address questions on Integrated Pest Management, including pesticide resistance testing.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by NACCHO and CDC.

- **Late applications will *not* be accepted.**
- Incomplete applications and applications that are not submitted before Monday, February 21, 2022, at 11:59 pm PST will not be reviewed.
- Applicants will be notified of their selection status by March 7, 2022, via email to the specified point of contact. Selected applicants will be provided with a letter certifying NACCHO's plans for reimbursement.

NACCHO and CDC will use the following criteria to review application materials in each of the sections below:

- Completeness in application materials and all related questions;
- Demonstrated capability and strengths (mentors) or gaps (mentees) in the application self-assessment; and
- Well-supported strategies to build program capacity, improve local collaboration, and support program sustainability as appropriate.

Proposals must include the following content:

- A. **Application (75 points)** – Complete all sections of the accompanying application.
- B. **Budget (25 points)** – Using the accompanying [Budget Worksheet](#), provide a line item budget, not to exceed \$10,000, that clearly outlines the \$ amount, % of total budget, and a narrative cost justification for each line item. (Note: a budget narrative section is also included in the application. Both of these budget materials must be completed.) Guidance for completing the budget can be [accessed here](#).

Background

Applicants should provide a brief description of their program, including services, geographic service area, and relevant population data. Applicants must also complete a program self-assessment, indicating their current capacity to implement the ten vector control and surveillance program capabilities. Applicants should identify three vector control capabilities that they are most interested in building capacity in based on the completed self-assessment.

Statement of Work

Applicants should specify their goals for capacity building over the course of the VCC and describe how these goals will support jurisdictional needs. Applicants should align with IPM practices and best practices as defined by the American Mosquito Control Association and other leaders in the field of vector control. The application should also indicate how the applicant will

encourage the sustainability of their program and the strategies proposed in the statement of work.

Sustainability activities could include:

- Establishing training materials and standard operating procedures for staff and temporary employees.
- Developing MOUs with neighboring jurisdictions to share resources and equipment during an outbreak (e.g., accessing ultra-low volume adulticide spray when needed).
- Promoting or developing a financing structure to support program activities (e.g., identifying sustainable funding sources, working with local government to prioritize vector control).
- Developing a jurisdictional vector control and surveillance plan.
- Determining ways to cost share.
- Including vector control as a line item on budgets (e.g., personnel, funds).
- Implementing tracking measures and tools to identify program impact, show value added, or conduct a cost-benefit analysis.

Collaboration

Applicants should work to collaborate with key stakeholders in the community to increase the implementation, and effectiveness of, local vector control and surveillance activities. Applicants should demonstrate awareness of relevant partners within their jurisdiction and describe existing partnerships. Programs applying to be **mentors** should demonstrate existing partnerships and the results of those partnerships as appropriate. Programs applying to become **mentees** may indicate existing partnerships and/or stakeholders with whom they could partner to achieve proposed activities. Key stakeholders may include nearby mosquito control districts, state health departments, municipal departments (e.g., public works, parks and recreation, sanitation), agricultural entities, and universities.

Budget Request

Funding for each grant is up to \$10,000. Applicants must complete the budget narrative, proposing a realistic and appropriate request that includes a breakdown of costs, timeline for disbursement, and justification. In addition, applications must submit an itemized budget. Please see the accompanying [budget worksheet](#) and [guidance](#).

NACCHO will pay the selected awardee in two installments for invoicing periods ending April 30, 2022 and June 30, 2022, upon receipt of all subawardee invoices. Please note that NACCHO reserves the right to make changes to the project timeline and payment schedule if necessary.

EXPECTATIONS

From March 7 to June 30, 2022, selected applicants are expected to:

- Designate one point of contact to serve as the project coordinator. Even if this person will not be leading all project activities, each participating program must designate one

individual with whom NACCHO will directly communicate on all matters related to program participation.

- Adhere to the activities and timeline proposed in the application materials. The designated point of contact should be in communication with NACCHO staff if deliverables must change due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Adhere to NACCHO’s [standard contract language](#) and be able to sign and return a contract to NACCHO within 30 days of receiving it. (*Note:* NACCHO has a specific contract template as approved by the State’s General Counsel for applicants from the states of FL and TX. Please email us for a copy should you need it.) **No modifications to the contract language will be made. Agencies that cannot agree to NACCHO’s contract language should not apply for this initiative.** As part of the application, the agency will be asked to verify that it has read NACCHO’s standard contract language and has provided a copy to the individual with signing authority at the agency for advanced consideration.
- Ability to complete NACCHO’s [Organizational Subrecipient Risk Assessment Form](#). Agencies that cannot complete NACCHO’s subrecipient risk assessment form should not apply for this initiative. As part of the application, the agency will be asked to verify that it has reviewed NACCHO’s subrecipient risk assessment form and has provided a copy to the individual with signing authority at the agency for advanced consideration.

Key Activities and Dates

Deadline for Completion	Activity
January 13, 2022	RFA released and application opens
February 21, 2022	Applications due by 11:59 PM PST
March 7, 2022	All awardees notified by this date
March 2022	Orientation call (date to be scheduled) and begin project activities
March 7 – June 30, 2022	Submit reimbursement materials
April 2022 – June 2022	Check-in calls with NACCHO and CDC
May 31, 2022	All VCC site visits and reverse-site visits completed
June 30, 2022	Deliverables completed. Coordinate with NACCHO to publish and share work as appropriate.
July 15, 2022	Final invoices submitted to NACCHO
July 2022	Post-test and program evaluation

If you have additional questions on the Vector Control Collaborative or the program application, please contact Angana Roy (aroy@naccho.org).