

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

Applications due January 31, 2020 by 11:59 pm PST

BACKGROUND

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports local health departments in protecting their communities from the 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 (IMP) and Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) principles. 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 need 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 have indicated a need for further programmatic and educational support for vector control programs nationwide.

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 the inception of the VCC in 2018, NACCHO has funded 14 local vector control organizations across five states to provide technical assistance or receive mentorship to increase program proficiency in vector surveillance and control.

Participants in the 2020 VCC Cohort will be provided a mentor who will visit their program to provide on-site technical assistance in vector surveillance and control. Selected programs will also be awarded funds to visit their mentor's site and shadow their program. NACCHO will award nine vector control programs with \$1,400 to participate in the VCC and cover site visit expenses.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Eligibility

Eligible programs must

- Be located in one of the following states:
 - **Alabama**
 - **Arizona**
 - **Connecticut**
 - **Delaware**
 - **District of Columbia**
 - **Florida**
 - **Georgia**
 - **Indiana**
 - **Kansas**
 - **Kentucky**
 - **Louisiana**
 - **Maryland**
 - **Massachusetts**
 - **Michigan**
 - **Mississippi**
 - **New Hampshire**
 - **New Jersey**
 - **New York**
 - **North Carolina**
 - **Ohio**
 - **Oklahoma**
 - **Pennsylvania**
 - **Rhode Island**
 - **South Carolina**
 - **Texas**
 - **Vermont**
 - **Virginia**
 - **West Virginia**
- 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.
- Demonstrate gaps in program expertise in one or more of the four core capabilities.
- Comply with NACCHO’s Travel Policy for utilization of funds.

B. Funding Available

Selected programs will be awarded \$1,400 to cover travel-related expenses for a 1-2-day site visit with their assigned mentor. NACCHO will issue nine awards for the 2020 Cohort of the VCC. The performance period for this award is March 1, 2020 – June 30,

2020. 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

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. Applications for the Vector Control Collaborative can be requested from vectorcontrol@naccho.org. Applicants must email their completed application to vectorcontrol@naccho.org by 11:59 p.m. PST, Friday, January 31, 2020. Applicants will be notified of their selection status via email by February 19, 2020.

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 emailed to vectorcontrol@naccho.org will not be reviewed.
- Applicants will be notified of their selection status by February 19, 2020 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 gaps in the application self-assessment; and
- Well-supported strategies to build program capacity and support program sustainability as appropriate.

Background

Applicants should provide a brief description of their program, including services, geographic service area, and relevant population data. Applicants must also complete the program self-assessment, indicating their current capacity to implement the ten vector control and surveillance program capabilities. Applicants should identify the 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. 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

EXPECTATIONS

From March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 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.
- Comply with NACCHO's Travel Policy.

Adhere to NACCHO's Travel Policy language. Costs incurred will be on a reimbursable basis. Agencies that cannot agree to NACCHO's Travel Policy language should not apply for this initiative. As part of the proposal, the agency will be asked to verify that it has read NACCHO's Travel Policy 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
December 11, 2019	RFA released and application opens
January 31, 2020	Applications due
February 3-18, 2020	Review of applications
February 19, 2020	Notification of selected awardees
March 2020	Orientation call (date to be scheduled) and begin project activities
March 2019 – June 30, 2020	Submit reimbursement materials
May 29, 2020	All VCC site visits and reverse-site visits completed
June 30, 2020	Deliverables completed. Work with NACCHO to publish and share work as appropriate
June 2020	Post-test and program evaluation

If you have additional questions on the Vector Control Collaborative or the program application, please contact Danielle Chatelain at dchatelain@naccho.org.