Roadmap to Ready: A Training and Mentoring Program for New Preparedness Coordinators

Program Description
Roadmap to Ready is a yearlong training and mentoring program that helps new emergency preparedness coordinators navigate the complex landscape of public health preparedness. The program provides participants with the knowledge, skills, connections, and resources they need to successfully lead and coordinate public health disaster/emergency preparedness planning and response activities in their local jurisdictions. NACCHO designed the program for preparedness coordinators at local health departments who have been in their roles for less than two years.

Program Objectives
Emergency preparedness coordinators ensure that local health departments effectively plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. To become effective in their roles, new preparedness coordinators must become familiar with a myriad of existing plans, partners, guidance, requirements, and regulations. The Roadmap to Ready program helps new preparedness coordinators excel by (1) delivering a curriculum that contains tailored training, resources, and individualized action plans; and (2) organizing them into teams led by experienced mentors to create collaborative learning and sharing opportunities, thus establishing a network of local emergency preparedness coordinators.

Training Methodologies and Resources
The program uses a blended learning methodology and a variety of resources to ensure that participants have the knowledge they need to be successful in their new roles.

• **In-person workshop:** The interactive workshop includes presentations from experienced faculty and collaborative sessions focused on priority areas that make up the foundation of public health preparedness work. Participants will be connected with an experienced mentor and will leave the session with a peer mentoring team, individualized action plans, and resources to continue learning after the workshop.

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89% of participants and mentors would recommend the program to a colleague
89% of participants found the program useful
83% of participants used something they learned from participating in the program
7 in 8 mentors found participation in this program beneficial to their professional development
88% of participants had a better understanding of challenges and opportunities in other jurisdictions

*results from the 2016 cohort*
Coaching and mentoring: Each participant is assigned to a mentor who will lead a small team of preparedness coordinators. Participating mentors have committed to providing technical assistance and guidance to all members of their teams throughout the duration of the program. Participants will engage in regular team calls with their mentors and peers to give mentees an opportunity to share their challenges, successes, and progress towards their action plans, and for mentors to provide guidance and share their own experiences.

Resources: NACCHO will provide participants with a variety of resources to support continued learning and development in the field of preparedness. Past resources have included individualized action plans, start-up guides, community of practice webinars on emergency preparedness topics of interest and relevance to participants, and a “resource of the week” communication featuring timely and relevant tools, guidance, training, and templates tied to monthly preparedness themes.

NACCHO staff: A team of dedicated NACCHO staff is available to help guide the learning process, support participants and mentors throughout the program, provide technical assistance, and share relevant resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Learn more about the application process and eligibility requirements for participants and mentors, visit http://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness/roadmap-to-ready or e-mail preparedness@naccho.org.

What Participants are Saying

“Meeting different new coordinators throughout the country and learning how each county and state operates their emergency preparedness programs has been very beneficial.”
Stacey Rosenberger – Participant
Emergency Services Planner
Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (Santa Barbara, CA)

“Receiving the extra resources that NACCHO supplies and knowing I have a mentor who can help me adjust to my role and work with me has been an added bonus of the program.”
Anonymous – Participant

“Participating as a mentor in the New Preparedness Coordinators Training and Mentoring program has been a rewarding experience for me. While the primary focus of the program is for me to provide information and advice, I have learned just as much from the incredible new coordinators I have been fortunate enough to mentor.”
Ivy Melton Sales – Mentor
Community Health Services Division Director
Davis County Health Department (Farmington, UT)