



National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Theresa Spinner
Director, Media and Public Relations
Direct: 202-783-5551
tspinner@naccho.org

NACCHO and CDC Announce the Vector Control Collaborative for Hurricane-Affected States

*— Texas and North Carolina Local Health Departments Selected to
Share Best Practices for Vector Control and Surveillance Programs —*

Washington, DC, August 7, 2019 — [The National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO), the voice of the nation’s nearly 3,000 local health departments, has announced the third cohort of its Vector Control Collaborative Program (VCC), which strengthens local communities’ ability to detect disease threats spread by mosquitos and ticks. This year’s cohort comes from communities recently affected by hurricanes. The program is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) [Division of Vector-Borne Diseases](#) (DVBD).

The VCC provides a critical opportunity for local vector control programs to share best practices in vector control and surveillance and guidance, tools, and recommendations in implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) principles. The program pairs vector control programs with demonstrated expertise in the [fundamental capabilities](#) of vector control and surveillance with programs looking to build their capacity to detect and respond to vector-borne disease threats. By making and fostering these connections, VCC communities across the country are able to strengthen their vector programs and adopt best practices to protect their regions.

“Local public health departments work vigilantly to protect the communities from serious illness like Lyme disease and Zika transmitted by vectors, like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas that can infect people with life-threatening diseases. We are pleased to work with the CDC to help our health department members impacted by recent hurricanes advance their abilities, knowledge, and capabilities to prevent vector-borne illnesses in their communities,” said NACCHO Chief Executive Officer Lori Tremmel Freeman.

Programs participating in this year’s cohort were selected from states that were impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. The cohort consists of four participants, two pairs each from the states of Texas and North Carolina. The following are the mentor and mentee teams that will be working together for this cohort of the VCC:

NORTH CAROLINA**MENTOR:** FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**MENTEE:** DAVIDSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**TEXAS****MENTOR:** TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**MENTEE:** ABILENE-TAYLOR COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

The VCC pairs identify priorities for the project year and develop action plans to define how mentors can assist mentees in building program capacity. To further encourage peer-to-peer information exchange, the full cohort meets regularly with subject matter experts from NACCHO and CDC to discuss progress in the program, common challenges, and best practices in vector surveillance and control.

With the inclusion of the Hurricane-Affected States cohort, the VCC has funded 14 vector control programs to purchase essential surveillance and control equipment, enhance community outreach efforts, train program staff, build jurisdictional partnerships, and expand program operations.

The newest cohort began the VCC in June 2019 and will complete the mentorship program at the end of February 2020. NACCHO will work with participants to collate and promote the lessons learned throughout the program to other vector control programs across the country.

For more information on the NACCHO Vector Control Program and the Vector Control Capabilities, visit these websites:

- [NACCHO Vector Control Program Site](#)
- [A Capabilities-Based Framework for Mosquito Control Programs in the United States](#)

#

About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities. For more information about NACCHO, please visit www.naccho.org.