



## Local Health Departments Prepare for and Respond to Emergencies

Local health departments are the “boots on the ground” in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks, natural and human-caused disasters, and terrorist attacks. Local health departments regularly host trainings and exercises to prepare staff and healthcare coalition partners for public health emergencies; build consistent and ongoing communication among partners; clearly define roles during an emergency; and

anticipate challenges before an emergency occurs.

The federal government provides support through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program and Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). These complementary programs serve different purposes. Health departments are funded to carry out public health preparedness and coordinate health care system readiness to respond to emergencies.

### NACCHO Recommendations

To save lives and money, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recommends the following in fiscal year (FY) 2018:

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

##### PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

FY17: \$660 million

President’s FY18 Budget: \$551 million

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$705 million

PHEP grants strengthen local and state public health departments’ capacity and capability to effectively respond to public health emergencies such as terrorist threats; infectious disease outbreaks; natural disasters; and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological emergencies. PHEP grants are awarded to 50 state, four city (Chicago, Los Angeles County, New York City, and Washington, DC), and eight territorial health departments. In 2016, \$50 million of PHEP funding went to respond to the Zika virus threat. More than 55% of local health departments rely solely on federal funding for emergency preparedness.

#### Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, HHS

##### HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

FY17: \$255 million

President’s FY18 Budget: \$227 million

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$350 million

HPP provides funding to 50 state, four city (Chicago, Los Angeles County, New York City, and Washington, DC), and eight territorial health departments to enhance healthcare system planning and response at the state, local, regional, and territorial levels. HPP supports regional healthcare coalitions (HCCs), which are formal collaborations among healthcare and public health organizations focused on strengthening medical surge and other healthcare preparedness capabilities. There are 496 HCCs nationwide, comprised of 23,790 members.

##### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

FY17: \$6 million

President’s FY18 Budget: \$6 million

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$11 million

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was created in 2002 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. These highly skilled volunteer health professionals fill a critical role in increasing local health departments’ capacity to respond to emergencies. Two-thirds of the nation’s 1,000 MRC units are housed in local health departments. MRC has been cut by 45% since FY2013.

## Local Health Departments Protect the Public

Local health departments perform the following functions to ensure the safety and well-being of America's communities in the face of potential public health emergencies:

### Preparedness

- Develop comprehensive disaster plans in collaboration with community partners.
- Provide training and exercises of local health and emergency response teams to quickly dispense medicine.
- Identify and prepare populations that may be at higher risk for adverse health outcomes.
- Improve mosquito control and monitoring capacity.

### Protection

- Maintain laboratory systems with a capacity for 24/7 receipt of potentially hazardous specimens and the capability to screen and test for a broad range of

public health threats.

- Provide immunizations for expected and unexpected public health incidents such as the H1N1 flu virus, foodborne disease outbreaks, and other infectious diseases such as measles, Ebola, smallpox, and anthrax.

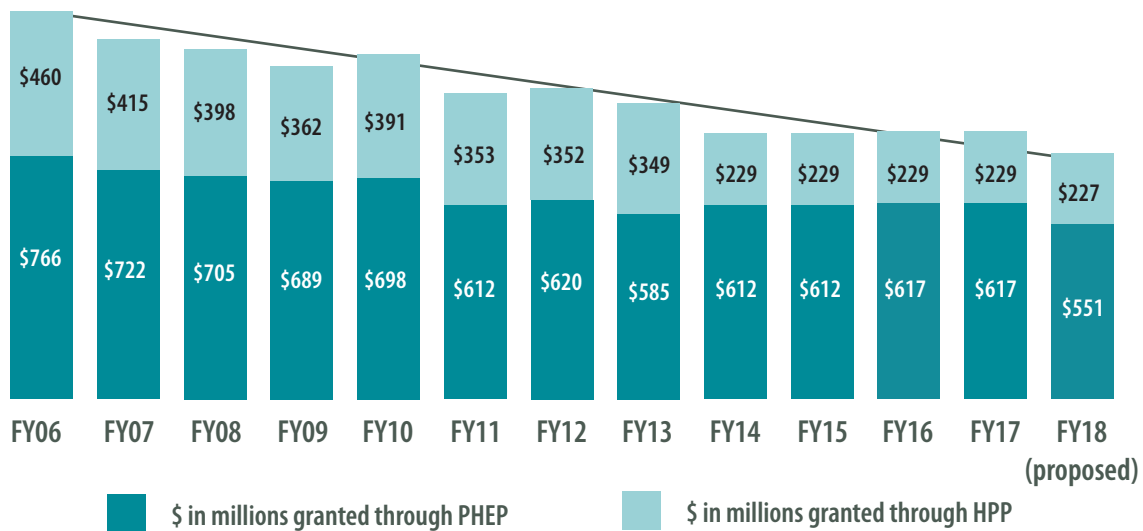
### Response

- Identify necessity for medical surge and prepare healthcare providers to treat victims.
- Mobilize and coordinate volunteer public health and healthcare professionals.

### Recovery

- Issue interim guidance to the public on risk and protective actions.
- Prepare for evacuation, repatriation, and receipt of evacuees from sites of incidents.

CDC PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND ASPR HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING (31% CUT FY06–FY16)



## About NACCHO

NACCHO is the voice of more than 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Learn more at <http://naccho.org/topics/emergency/>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



**Public Health**  
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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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