Local vector control programs are the front lines of defense against vector-borne disease threats such as West Nile virus, Eastern equine encephalitis virus, and Zika virus. These programs fulfill an essential role in preserving the health of their communities that is underscored by the fact that disease cases from mosquito, tick, and flea bites have tripled in the United States from 2004 to 2016, according to a 2018 Vital Signs report on vector-borne diseases from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Vector Control Collaborative 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. Vector Control Collaborative mentors provide targeted assistance to programs that are looking to build their capacity to detect and respond to mosquito-borne and tick-borne disease threats. Participants in the Vector Control Collaborative have experienced the following benefits:

- Attended trainings and conferences using award funding.
- Gained opportunities to shadow and learn from more advanced programs.
- Adopted best practices and gained practical knowledge that increased the program’s operational efficiency.
- Expanded partnerships with mentorship partner, academia, and other jurisdictional organizations.
- Established physical upgrades to program space and equipment to support resistance testing, education, and control efforts.

Through the Vector Control Collaborative, programs will assess their current surveillance and control capabilities, and receive a technical assistance plan to guide program development.

“Now we’ve become partners, if we need help with something…I don’t have any hesitation to call [our mentor]. The Vector Control Collaborative helped us to build a good working relationship that we can maintain and continue to share resources. I think it will be a lifetime partnership.” — Gainesville Mosquito Control, Cohort I