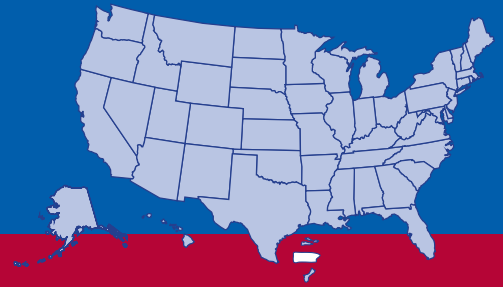


PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (PHEP) PROGRAM



PUERTO RICO

PHEP Then

In response to the deadly events of September 11, 2001, and the subsequent anthrax attacks, Congress established a new program to help health departments across the nation prepare for emergencies. Since then CDC's [Public Health Emergency Preparedness \(PHEP\) program](#) has partnered with state, local, and territorial public health departments to prepare for, withstand, and recover from potentially devastating public health emergencies.

Every year since, the PHEP program has provided vital resources to ensure communities can effectively respond to infectious disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear events.

PHEP Now

In 2018, PHEP provided \$620 million across public health departments to improve response readiness. Funds are also used to support epidemiologists (disease detectives), lab staff, planners, and other preparedness staff on the ground.

In the future, CDC will continue supporting PHEP recipients by sharing technical expertise, best practices, and lessons learned, along with tools and resources to identify and address gaps.

Learn More

For more information about the PHEP Program, visit www.cdc.gov/cpr/map.htm.

AT A GLANCE

In Puerto Rico

- ▶ **3.3 million residents**
- ▶ - reside in Cities Readiness Initiative metropolitan statistical areas (CRI MSA). A federally funded program, CRI helps cities effectively respond to large-scale public health emergencies requiring life-saving medications and medical supplies.
- ▶ **N/A** local public health departments

Frequent Public Health Emergencies

- ▶ Tropical Storms/Hurricanes
- ▶ Flooding
- ▶ Landslides/Mudslides

Key Emergency Operations Center Activations

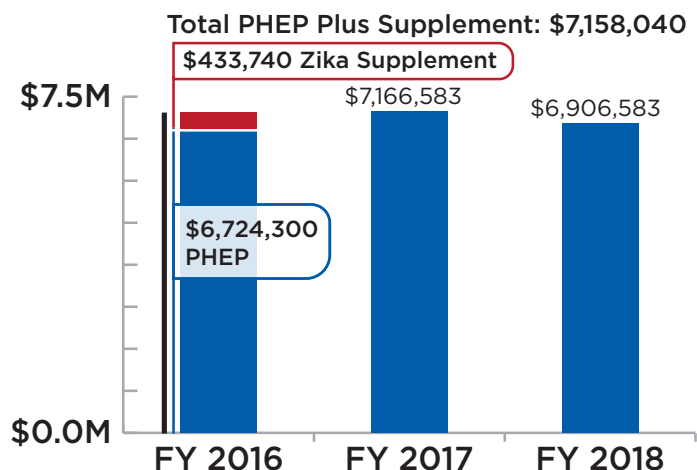
- ▶ 2016: Zika Response
- ▶ 2017: Hurricanes Irma & Maria

PHEP funds programs and activities that build and strengthen the nation's preparedness for public health emergencies.

Preparedness and Response Funding Snapshot

FY 2018 PHEP - \$6,906,583

Base Plus Population \$6,906,583
Cities Readiness Initiative \$-
Level 1 Chemical Lab \$-



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Center for Preparedness and Response

PHEP IN ACTION—AFTER HURRICANE MARIA, CDC FIELD SCIENTIST LEADS VACCINATION EFFORTS



In Puerto Rico, PHEP supports a CDC field scientist who works with local staff to improve surveillance, strengthen outbreak response, and conduct epidemiologic investigations. On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico as a strong Category 4 hurricane, causing unprecedented damage to structures, roads, electricity, water, and healthcare facilities. This left residents vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks, made worse by lack of refrigerated storage for vaccines. The CDC field scientist, alongside local staff, inspected potential vaccination sites, assessed their power needs, and worked to make them operational. As a result, more than 25 additional vaccination sites could provide services, saving countless lives.

CDC identified 15 public health preparedness capabilities critical to public health preparedness.

2018 PUERTO RICO TOP PHEP CAPABILITY INVESTMENTS

1. Public Health Laboratory Testing
2. Information Sharing
3. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
4. Public Health Surveillance & Epidemiologic Investigation
5. Community Preparedness

For a complete list of all 15 public health preparedness capabilities, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/cpr/readiness/capabilities.htm>.

Medical Countermeasure Readiness: Ensuring that medicine and supplies get to those who need them most during an emergency.

KEY STRENGTH

Strong long-term relationships with warehouse & distribution partners which are key to medical countermeasure missions

KEY CHALLENGE

Uncertain status and availability of some previously identified points of dispensing subsequent to 2017 hurricanes

States, territories, and localities are required to develop emergency plans covering children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations.

Population	2017
Households included children	27%
Respondents who know they are pregnant	3%
Respondents 65 or older	21%
Respondents who reported having diabetes	15%
Respondents who reported a condition that limits activities	—
Respondents who reported a health problem that required the use of specialized equipment	—

PHEP funds support staff who have expertise in many different areas.

PHEP-Funded Staff	2017
CDC Field Staff	1
Educators	—
Epidemiologists	4
Health Professionals	—
Laboratorians	5
Other Staff	66

PHEP PROGRAM — KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE RESULTS

In an emergency, it is critical that staff can meet quickly to plan for, lead, and manage a public health response. Public health staff serve as Incident Commanders, Public Information Officers, Planning Section Chiefs, Operations Section Chiefs, and other response roles.

Emergency Operations Coordination	2015	2016	2017
Number of minutes for public health staff with incident management lead roles to report for immediate duty	45	30	N/A

LRN chemical (LRN-C) labs rapidly identify exposures to toxic chemicals, aid diagnoses, and minimize further human exposures. CDC manages the LRN-C, a group of labs with testing capabilities to detect and confirm chemical health threats. LRN-C labs are designated as Level 1, 2, or 3, with Level 1 labs demonstrating the most advanced capabilities.

Current number and level of LRN-C Labs: 1 (Level 2)

Public Health Laboratory Testing: LRN-C	2015	2016	2017
Proportion of core chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs	N/A	N/A	0/9
Number of additional chemical agent detection methods demonstrated by Level 1 and/or Level 2 labs	N/A	N/A	0
Result of LRN exercise to collect, package, and ship samples	Passed	Passed	Did not participate



For more information on
 CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, visit
www.cdc.gov/cpr/map.htm