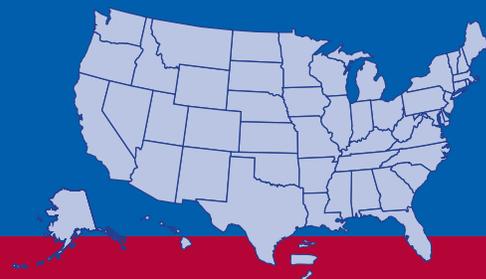


# PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (PHEP) PROGRAM



## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

### 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](http://www.cdc.gov/cpr/map.htm).

## AT A GLANCE

### In U.S. Virgin Islands

▶ 106,405 residents

#### Frequent Public Health Emergencies

- ▶ Drought
- ▶ Flooding
- ▶ Tropical Storms/Hurricanes

#### Key Emergency Operations Center Activations

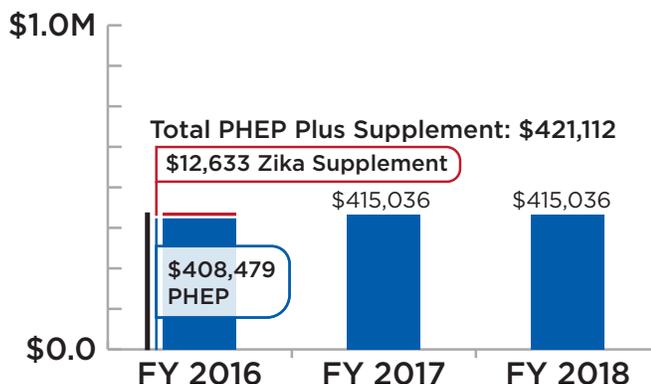
- ▶ 2015: Tropical Storm Erika
- ▶ 2016: Zika Response

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

### Preparedness and Response Funding Snapshot

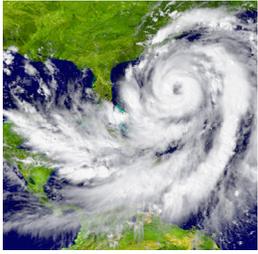
**FY 2018 PHEP \$415,036**

Base Plus Population \$415,036  
Cities Readiness Initiative \$—  
Level 1 Chemical Lab \$—



# U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

## PHEP IN ACTION—PHEP PROGRAM SUPPORTS U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RESIDENTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANES IRMA AND MARIA



In the U.S. Virgin Islands, PHEP supports a CDC field scientist who works with local staff to improve surveillance, strengthen outbreak response, and conduct epidemiologic investigations. In September 2017, two Category 5 hurricanes—Irma and Maria—struck the U.S. Virgin Islands within a two-week period. Severe damage to the territory’s infrastructure left many residents without electricity or safe household water for months. The CDC scientist, alongside local staff, coordinated evacuations, sheltering, and distribution of medical supplies. They also led multiple rapid needs assessments to determine the health status and basic needs of the community so emergency managers could act quickly.

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

### 2018 U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS TOP PHEP CAPABILITY INVESTMENTS

1. Community Preparedness
2. Emergency Operations Coordination
3. Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
4. Medical Materiel Management & Distribution
5. Information Sharing

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

Stability of PHEP staff, all with several years of experience

#### KEY CHALLENGE

Incomplete site-specific planning for receiving, staging, and storage sites and points of dispensing

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

PHEP-Funded Staff	2017
CDC Field Staff	2
Educators	–
Epidemiologists	–
Health Professionals	–
Laboratorians	–
Other Staff	3

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
Conducted call-down drills to document the ability to contact responders to activate the emergency operations center	No	Yes	No



For more information on CDC’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, visit

[www.cdc.gov/cpr/map.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cpr/map.htm)