

DSLRL

FRIDAY UPDATE

March 17, 2023

CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program is a critical source of funding, guidance, and technical assistance for state, local, and territorial public health departments to strengthen their public health preparedness capabilities and improve their response readiness. The Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) Friday Update provides information and resources for PHEP recipients and other preparedness planners. Please share the newsletter with your colleagues.

For more information, visit the [CDC State and Local Readiness website](#) or contact us at preparedness@cdc.gov.

Subscribe here for the
DSLRL FRIDAY UPDATE



In This Issue

Upcoming Deadlines

- **April 21** – PHEP BP5 Funding Applications - **New Date**

PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

- CDC Extends BP5 Application Deadline to April 21
- CDC to Replay March PHEP Recipient Call on March 21
- PORTS Office Hours Scheduled for March 30

Emergency Response Activities

- CDC Response Update Call for STLT Jurisdictions Scheduled for March 20
- CDC OTC COVID-19 Test Distribution Transitions to HHS

What's on the Calendar

- **March 20** – [CDC Response STLT Update Call](#) (2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. EDT)
- **March 21** – [Replay of March PHEP Recipient Call](#) (8 p.m. EDT)
- **March 30** – [PORTS Office Hours](#) (11 a.m. to Noon EDT)
- **March 30** – [PORTS Office Hours](#) (7 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT)

- **April 24-27** – [NACCHO Preparedness Summit](#)

Preparedness and Response Resources

- SNS Updates Regional Workshop Schedule
- CDC Develops Rural Health Mapping Tool and the Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit
- NACCHO Seeks Chemical Preparedness Resources

News You Can Use

- SAMS Maintenance to Affect CDC IT Systems
- CDC Releases Two New NOFOs for Drug Overdose Surveillance and Prevention Efforts

Online Resources

- CDC MMWR Reports



Upcoming Deadlines

- **April 21** – PHEP BP5 Funding Applications - **New Date**



PHEP Cooperative Agreement Updates

CDC Extends BP5 Application Deadline to April 21

CDC has finalized the PHEP Budget Period 5 (BP5) funding allocations and extended the GrantSolutions and PERFORMS application deadline to **Friday, April 21**. Final PHEP BP5 funding totals **\$661,338,609**.

DSLRL has updated recipients' final funding allocations in PERFORMS to enable recipients to update their BP5 application budgets and work plans. Recipients must submit their PHEP BP5 applications in PERFORMS and GrantSolutions no later than **11:59 p.m. EDT on Friday, April 21**. CDC extended the BP5 application deadline following the March 15 recipient call to give recipients more time to finalize budgets and work plans and get final budget approval from their jurisdictional leadership. CDC highly encourages recipients to submit their applications before the April 21 deadline to help **expedite processing of their funding awards**.

The final BP5 funding includes increased support to PHEP recipient following a \$20 million increase in FY 2023 appropriations for the PHEP program. The total funding includes a \$7.1 million increase in Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) funding and a \$3.6 million increase for the Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C) to replace obsolete chemical laboratory testing equipment. This LRN-C funding increase is in addition to the \$4 million DSLRL had included in the BP5 funding planning numbers to support LRN-C equipment upgrades for 10 Level 2 laboratories.

The remainder of the funding increase will enable CDC to further support state, local, and territorial (SLT) preparedness and response through these critical activities:

- Continue to expand the Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) program nationwide and to increase Preparedness Field Assignee (PFA) assignments,
- Provide dedicated health equity subject matter expertise to improve recipients' preparedness planning for disproportionately impacted populations,
- Develop rural and frontier preparedness capability priorities, and

- Implement information technology updates to improve SLT program management and evaluation of readiness and response capabilities.

In addition to the CRI and LRN-C funding updates, some recipients will see slight adjustments in their base-plus-population funding. However, no jurisdiction received a decrease in total funding compared with the preliminary BP5 planning numbers included in the BP5 continuation guidance released in January.

With a \$7.1 million increase, the **FY 2023 funding for CRI totals \$78,760,478**. The CRI funding awarded to the 50 states and four directly funded localities will support medical countermeasure (MCM) planning, including the MCM activities of approximately 400 local planning jurisdictions in 72 large metropolitan centers. With the \$3.6 million LRN-C increase, CDC will provide a total of **\$7.6 million in additional LRN-C funding**. The additional funding will support technology transfer activities for four laboratories and equipment upgrades for 20 Level 2 laboratories. CDC will also award **\$13,324,820** to support the 10 Level 1 LRN-C laboratories.

The \$3.6 million LRN-C increase will fund 10 Level 2 LRN-C laboratories at \$300,000 each to purchase updated gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) equipment, which tests for volatile organics such as cyanide and tetramine. In Budget Period 4, CDC funded similar equipment upgrades for 14 Level 2 laboratories and had initially planned to fund 10 Level 2 laboratories in BP5. Funding the additional 10 Level 2 laboratories will complete the GC/MS equipment updates for the 34 Level 2 laboratories.

Also included in the LRN-C funding increase is \$600,000 CDC will award to Texas to upgrade its high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) laboratory testing capabilities. The use of HRMS technology enables LRN-C laboratories to detect additional known chemical agents as well as new unknown and emerging chemical threats. CDC began planning in 2021 to introduce HRMS capabilities to LRN-C laboratories already using HRMS equipment for other programs such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) and CDC's Opioids Data 2 Action Surveillance Program. The Texas public health laboratory will be the first LRN-C laboratory to pilot HRMS capabilities developed from these projects. CDC selected the Texas laboratory as it has been supporting method development and technology transfer projects related to updated and new LRN-C testing capabilities for volatile organic compounds, toxic alcohols, and HRMS testing. CDC plans to fund other LRN-C laboratories to purchase HRMS testing platforms in future years subject to availability of funding.

CDC will publish a final PHEP BP5 funding table on the CDC website. The PERFORMS funding amounts for recipients who use direct assistance to support additional field staff or SAS licenses will be less than their funding totals published on the CDC website. The published funding amounts reflect total funding available, including financial assistance and direct assistance.

CDC to Replay March PHEP Recipient Call on March 21

CDC will replay the March PHEP recipient conference call at **8 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 21**. The call includes information on PHEP BP5 final funding and an update on Influenza A Virus subtype H5N1 surveillance. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666 (Audio only)

Meeting ID: 160 752 4717

Passcode: 07271150

Access Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1607524717?pwd=czhra1pScTQrS3ptR3pjMVVSRzEwZz09>

PORTS Office Hours Scheduled for March 30

DSLRL will conduct two PHEP ORR Reporting and Tracking System (PORTS) office-hour sessions from **11 a.m. to noon EDT and 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT on Thursday, March 30**. The sessions will serve as an open forum where PHEP recipients can ask technical questions on using the Operational Readiness Review (ORR) module or ORR guidance questions related to entering and submitting data. The PORTS session will be facilitated by the PORTS training team and DSLRL evaluation staff. CDC encourages recipients to email questions in advance to dsrlrtraining@cdc.gov. Following is the participant information.

Participant Information – 11 a.m. to noon EDT

Dial-In: (888) 994-4478 (Audio only)
Meeting ID: 294 707 705 609
Phone Conference ID: 753 293 660
Access Link: [PORTS Office Hours](#)

Participant Information – 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT

Dial-In: (888) 994-4478 (Audio only)
Meeting ID: 258 153 463 625
Phone Conference ID: 713 048 119
Access Link: [PORTS Office Hours](#)



CDC Response Update Call for STLT Jurisdictions Scheduled for March 20

CDC will convene a CDC Response All-State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) Update Call from **2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 20**. During the call, CDC response leadership will provide updates on CDC's responses to COVID-19 and mpox and respond to participant questions.

Participant Information

Dial-In: (646) 828-7666
Webinar ID: 161 016 7208
Passcode: 46217352
Webinar Link: <https://cdc.zoomgov.com/j/1610167208?pwd=Y1h2QWp5SFJDZlhnU2NoeDZrT21JUT09>

A replay of the webinar will be offered at **2 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, March 21**, available using the same participant information provided above.

CDC will begin using a new listserv to distribute future notifications of CDC Response All-STLT update calls and related messages. After the March 20 call, CDC will provide the link to subscribe to this listserv for those who wish to receive updates on future response communications and calls. Only those who register for the listserv will continue to receive these responses updates. The primary audience for these communications is state, tribal, local, and territorial public health department staff.

CDC OTC COVID-19 Test Distribution Transitions to HHS

Effective March 13, the request process to obtain free COVID-19 tests through the federal government has transitioned from CDC to the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Currently, ASPR has free tests available for states to cover gaps in testing high-risk or vulnerable populations at risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection. Requests for over-the-counter (OTC) or at-home COVID-19 test kits can be made through state health departments, who can then submit requests to OTCtests@hhs.gov.

ASPR and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) will coordinate to provide OTC COVID-19 tests, by request, to local health departments. Local health departments should submit requests to their NACCHO representatives.

States may also purchase OTC COVID-19 tests through the [Federal Supply Schedule](#) at negotiated cost and directly through the commercial market. The federal government continues to work closely with the manufacturers of OTC tests to ensure that the nation's supply of OTC tests is not disrupted, and many of these tests are available in the commercial market.



What's on the Calendar

- **March 20** – [CDC Response STLT Update Call](#) (2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. EDT)
- **March 21** – [Replay of March PHEP Recipient Call](#) (8 p.m. EDT)
- **March 30** – [PORTS Office Hours](#) (11 a.m. to Noon EDT)
- **March 30** – [PORTS Office Hours](#) (7 p.m. to 8 p.m. EDT)
- **April 24-27** – [NACCHO Preparedness Summit](#)



Preparedness and Response Resources

SNS Updates Regional Workshop Schedule

ASPR currently is conducting a series of regional meetings to update state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) partners on the Strategic National Stockpile's (SNS) role as ASPR's logistics node for medical countermeasure (MCM) operations. The workshops are designed to strengthen partnerships and to discuss lessons learned to improve all levels of MCM response operations.

Following is the list of SNS regional meetings in 2023.

- **Region 3:** March 28- 29 in Frederick, Md.
- **Region 5:** May 31-June 1 at a location to be determined
- **Region 4:** June 6 -7 in Atlanta, Ga.
- **Region 8:** June 21-22 in Bismarck, N.D.
- **Region 2:** July 11-12 at location to be determined
- **Region 6:** August 1-2 in Santa Fe, N.M.
- **Region 7:** September 12-13 in Kansas City, Mo.
- **Region 1:** Dates and location to be determined

Invited participants include PHEP directors; state and local MCM coordinators including Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) representatives; tribal, healthcare, and emergency management representatives; and other STLT stakeholders involved in MCM logistics operations. PHEP directors, MCM coordinators, and federal partners will receive invitations via email with registration information in advance of each regional meeting.

In preparation for the upcoming Region 3 meeting, invited participants should review the SNS formulary update webinar on CDC TRAIN at [A Strategic National Stockpile \(SNS\) Formulary Update March 2023](#) (Course ID #: **1107185**). Viewers must have a no-cost TRAIN account which is available via <http://train.org>. To quickly find the course, search the TRAIN site for course ID number **1107185** and use launch code **Form23** to view the webinar. After registering, a green Launch button appears, and after it is clicked a box for the launch code appears. After the code is entered the training video will begin. SNS will offer access to the formulary video before each regional meeting and provide the unique launch code information for each meeting.

Jurisdictions should direct questions regarding the regional meetings to snsstltengagement@cdc.gov.

CDC Develops Rural Health Mapping Tool and the Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit

CDC partnered with [NORC at the University of Chicago](#) and the [Rural Health Information Hub](#) to develop the [Rural Health Mapping Tool](#) and the [Rural Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit](#). The mapping tool

allows users to create a map view that displays only the rural counties in the United States, which can highlight areas of need. The toolkit provides evidence-based and promising models and resources to support emergency planning, response, and recovery efforts.

NACCHO Seeks Chemical Preparedness Resources

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in partnership with CDC, is gathering chemical response materials and training resources developed by local health departments or in collaboration with other community partnerships. This information will help inform the future of chemical emergency preparedness and help improve existing resources. NACCHO is requesting input from local health departments that have experience in responding to chemical incidents or developing chemical preparedness materials, including trainings, plans, protocols, and checklists.

Materials must be submitted to scallahan@naccho.org by **Friday, March 31**. For additional information, contact scallahan@naccho.org.



SAMS Maintenance to Affect CDC IT Systems

From **9 p.m. EDT on Friday, March 24, through Sunday, March 26**, CDC's Secure Access Management System (SAMS) will be offline to complete an upgrade to its production database. During this time, SAMS authentication services will be frequently unavailable as upgrade tasks are completed and tested. This will affect all systems that use SAMS authentication services such as **PERFORMS, PORTS, On-TRAC, and REDCap**. Recipients should make alternative plans for any work they may have scheduled during this downtime and also should log out of the systems prior to the start of the scheduled maintenance.

CDC Releases Two New NOFOs for Drug Overdose Surveillance and Prevention Efforts

CDC recently announced two new notice of funding opportunities (NOFOs) for drug overdose surveillance and prevention efforts. The new NOFOs, which help to advance the [HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy](#), focus on the implementation of evidence-based interventions that correspond with recent shifts in the drug overdose crisis. This includes changes in the illicit drug supply, the continued threat from illicit fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, and a rise in stimulant and polysubstance use. Surveillance strategies will enhance and expand the ability of health departments to track overdoses and identify emerging drug threats.

- The [Overdose Data to Action in States \(OD2A-S\)](#) funding opportunity supports state health departments to conduct overdose-related surveillance and prevention activities to decrease fatal and non-fatal overdoses and related harms. All states, as well as Washington, D.C., are eligible to apply for this five-year funding announcement. This also includes currently unfunded states.
- The [Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities \(OD2A: LOCAL\)](#) funding opportunity supports local city and county health departments and territories to develop overdose-related surveillance infrastructure and implement prevention activities to decrease overdoses and related harms. All local health departments, special district health departments, and territories are eligible to apply for this five-year funding announcement.

For additional information about these funding opportunities, visit www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/od2a/funding-announcements.html and Grants.gov. Completed applications must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 8**.



Online Resources

CDC MMWR Reports

- [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, March 17](#)
- [Vital Signs: Progress Toward Eliminating HIV as a Global Public Health Threat Through Scale-Up of Antiretroviral Therapy and Health System Strengthening Supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief — Worldwide, 2004–2022](#)
- [Trends in Reported Babesiosis Cases — United States, 2011–2019](#)
- [Emergency Department Visits by Incarcerated Adults for Nonfatal Injuries — United States, 2010–2019](#)
- [School-Based Interventions to Increase Student COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage in Public School Populations with Low Coverage — Seattle, Washington, December 2021–June 2022](#)
- [Notes From the Field: Prevalence of Previous Dengue Virus Infection Among Children and Adolescents — U.S. Virgin Islands, 2022](#)
- [Notes From the Field: First Evidence of Locally Acquired Dengue Virus Infection — Maricopa County, Arizona, November 2022](#)
- [Correction and Republication: Early Estimates of Bivalent mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness in Preventing COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department or Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Immunocompetent Adults — VISION Network, Nine States, September–November 2022](#)
- [QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rates, by State — National Vital Statistics System, United States, 2021](#)

Christine Kosmos, RN, BSN, MS

Director, Division of State and Local Readiness
Office of Readiness and Response (ORR)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd Atlanta, GA 30329 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: 888-232-6348

[Questions or Problems](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)