



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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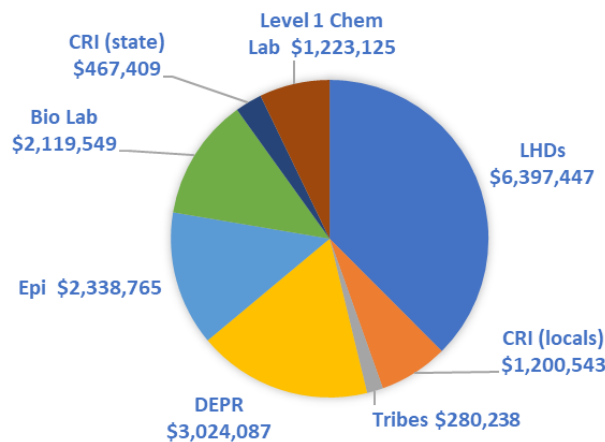
MDHHS, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program Request for Local Health Department Concurrence Letter of Support

About PHEP

The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response (DEPR) receives Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) funding through a five-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The PHEP program aims to enhance the readiness of state, local, and tribal public health systems to save lives and prevent morbidity and mortality during emergencies that exceed the day-to-day capacity of Michigan's public health agencies.

PHEP Funding

Michigan has received approximately \$17 million in PHEP funds, annually since 2012. Nearly half is provided directly to local health departments (LHDs), Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) jurisdictions, and tribal health partners to support local public health preparedness. The remaining funds support state-level preparedness infrastructure, activities, and personnel, as well as statewide systems that enhance public health capacity. These include MI-HAN, MI-TRAIN, the CHECC, regional epidemiologists, and biological and Level 1 Chem laboratory. CDC has announced level funding for the 2024-2025 budget period.



Local Concurrence

As part of the application process for the 2024-2029 project period, each state awardee must provide a signed letter to provide evidence that the state has consulted with at least a majority, if not all, LHDs within the jurisdiction to reach consensus, approval, or concurrence on the relative distribution amounts, approaches, and priorities. This letter should be signed by the LHDs or representative agency/organization. In the event 100% concurrence is not possible, despite good-faith efforts, states must provide a document explaining the reasons for lack of concurrence and the steps taken to address them.

Preparedness Priorities

CDC's newly released Response Readiness Framework describes ten cross-cutting program priorities for PHEP awardees to focus efforts on during the 2024-2029 project period. They serve as the underpinning to the following three preparedness strategies:

Strategy 1: Prioritize a risk-based approach to all-hazards planning and response.

- Develop risk-based approach to all-hazards planning to address evolving threats.
- Advance capacity and capability of public health laboratories to characterize emerging public health threats through testing and surveillance.
- Modernize data collection and systems to improve situational awareness and information sharing with healthcare systems and other partners.

Strategy 2: Improve whole community readiness, response, and recovery.

- Enhance partnerships to effectively support community preparedness efforts.
- Strengthen risk communication activities to improve proficiency in disseminating critical public health information and warnings and address misinformation and disinformation.
- Prioritize community recovery efforts to support health department reconstitution and incorporate lessons learned from public health emergency responses.

Strategy 3: Improve capacity to meet workforce, administrative, and budget surge management

- Improve administrative and budget preparedness systems.
- Build workforce capacity to meet jurisdictional surge management needs and support staff recruitment, retention, resilience, and mental health.
- Expand local support to improve jurisdictional readiness to effectively manage public health emergencies.

The tenth framework focus area – integrating health equity practices – crosscuts all three strategies and aims to improve inclusion and support for disproportionately affected populations and those with accessibility and functional needs that affect their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies.

Application Development and Timeline

DEPR staff are currently in the planning and development phase for the PHEP funding application. During this time, our team is reviewing newly released guidance and requirements from CDC, internal assessments, and lessons learned from COVID-19 and previously conducted exercises to formalize our approach to the strategies, framework focus areas, and other PHEP requirements. This cooperative agreement cycle will incorporate the new preparedness priorities into the previous 15 Preparedness Capabilities, introduce a new CDC application and grant management platform, and start a dedicated 5-year application period to streamline application in years 2-4.

The PHEP Application is due to CDC on April 24, 2024.

DEPR has shared information regarding the new cooperative agreement with local health department staff and has submitted budget templates to local health department Health Officers, EPCs, and finance staff. DEPR staff are appreciative of the opportunity to work with MALPH to present and seek local health department concurrence on Michigan's preparedness priorities for the 2024-2029 PHEP Cooperative Agreement and are flexible and amenable to the best process to accomplish this goal.