

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR)



Mission: To protect the public's health and increase the public health infrastructure by building county health department preparedness capacity and capability with assistance from state health departments using sustainable tools to plan, train and exercise a continuous improvement model.

Vision: Local health departments will be fully integrated into the response community and prepared to respond to any emergency.



Purpose: During an emergency or disaster, when the public looks to county health departments for leadership, one of the greatest challenges becomes balancing emergency responsibility with continuing routine delivery of services. Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is an effective tool for increasing community preparedness. It serves as a public health preparedness tool to develop and support:

- An organizational culture change that values preparedness
- The foundation and building blocks for preparedness
- A standard methodology (uniformity and consistency) between counties
- Evaluation tools that may be used to validate current programs
- Preparedness guidance, especially for counties with few resources

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) allows all local health departments, regardless of size, to meet consistent standards of readiness. Project Public Health Ready is a competency-based training and recognition program that assesses preparedness and assists local health departments, or groups of local health departments, working collaboratively to respond to emergencies. The PPHR criteria are nationally-recognized standards for local public health preparedness and are updated annually to incorporate the most recent federal initiatives. Project Public Health Ready has three project goals: all-hazards preparedness planning; workforce capacity development; and demonstration of readiness through exercises or real events. Each goal has a comprehensive list of standards that must be met in order to achieve PPHR recognition.

In addition to the national tool, Florida adapted a state-supported model to further the state's culture of preparedness and has integrated Florida-specific criteria into the national criteria. Florida was the first state to provide state-level coordination for the program.

Program Authority/Funding: The department receives funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement.

PPHR aligns with/or supports:

[Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness 2014-2017 Strategic Plan](#)

Goal 1: Cross-Functional Management and Support

Goal 7: Community and Health Care System Resilience

[CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities](#)

A National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) crosswalk of Project Public Health Ready Criteria and CDC PHEP Capabilities demonstrates the strong connection between all of the Capabilities and the criteria used by PPHR. See NACCHO's

[Comparison of Project Public Health Ready and CDC PHEP Capabilities](#)



Objectives:

- Use the PPHR tool to develop, document and evaluate county health department readiness for disasters and emergencies.
- Protect the public's health and increase the public health infrastructure by equipping county health departments with sustainable tools to plan, train and exercise using a continuous improvement model.
- Develop tools and resources to assist counties in effectively implementing the program.
- Encourage all county health departments to participate.
- Build preparedness capacity and capability through a continuous quality improvement model.
- Conduct mentor and technical reviews to ensure all required information is submitted.

2013-2014 Highlights:

- Twelve counties that applied for PPHR recognition in 2013 (Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Seminole and Suwannee) were successfully awarded PPHR status resulting in 54 counties currently being recognized.
- Eight counties applied for PPHR recognition as Public Health Ready counties for 2014. Those counties are: Bay, Calhoun, Collier, Duval, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson and Lafayette.
- Seven applicant county site visits were conducted to provide orientation and tools for completing the PPHR criteria and submission requirements.
- Monthly conference calls were held with counties and the NACCHO representative to review specific PPHR criteria, discuss applicant concerns, address questions and provide project updates.

Partners: National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and county health departments.

Contact Information: Victor Johnson, Community Resilience Administrator 850-245-4346 or BPR.CommResCHDSupport@flhealth.gov.

For more information on the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) Program go to: www.floridahealth.gov/preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/project-public-health-ready or go to: www.floridahealth.gov and enter "PPHR" in the search box.