

Florida Healthcare Coalitions Executive Summary



PURPOSE OF HEALTHCARE COALITIONS

A Healthcare Coalition (HCC) is a collaborative network of healthcare organizations and their respective public and private sector response partners. Together, they serve as a multi-agency coordination group to assist Emergency Management, through ESF8, with preparedness, response and recovery activities related to health and medical disaster operations.

Healthcare Coalitions help improve medical surge capacity and capability, further enhancing a community's health system preparedness for disasters and public health emergencies.

A Healthcare Coalition also augments local operational readiness to meet the health and medical challenges posed by a catastrophic incident or event. This is achieved by engaging and empowering all parts of the healthcare community, and by strengthening the existing relationships to understand and meet the actual health and medical needs of the whole community.

FEDERAL FUNDING

Funding for Healthcare Coalition development and sustainment is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), Healthcare Preparedness Program (HPP) Cooperative Agreement and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement (Agency Funding Opportunity Number CDC-RFA-TP12-1201; Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 93.889 – National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program; and, 93.069 – Public Health Emergency Preparedness).

Specific ASPR HPP and CDC PHEP funding opportunity announcement information is available at: <http://www.phe.gov/preparedness/Pages/default.aspx>.

Current funding through 2017 is focused on the development and sustainment of Healthcare Coalitions through:

- **Improving infrastructure** - helping community-based healthcare providers prepare for disasters with a public health impact.
- **Capability-based planning** – funding supports the National Health Security Strategy and follows a capabilities-based approach, building upon the strong preparedness foundation already in place at the local level. ASPR has identified the following eight capabilities as the basis for HCC preparedness:

- Healthcare System Preparedness
 - Healthcare System Recovery
 - Emergency Operations Coordination
 - Fatality Management
 - Information Sharing
 - Medical Surge
 - Responder Safety and Health
 - Volunteer Management
- **Community Risk Assessment** - A central component of implementing a capability-based approach to preparedness and response includes jurisdictional risk assessments that identify potential hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks within the community that relate to the public health, medical, and mental/behavioral systems inclusive of at-risk individuals.
 - **Leveraging resources** – Healthcare Coalition partners enhance a community’s response capability through shared planning, organizing/equipping, training, exercise and evaluation activities related to disaster operations.
 - **Staged approach** – Healthcare Coalitions function at the community level based on existing partnerships in place and their relationship to their regional domestic security structure. In the end, Healthcare Coalitions should be able to effectively and efficiently demonstrate multiagency coordination during response through exercises and real-life incidents.

HEALTHCARE COALITION OBJECTIVES

Healthcare Coalition objectives are aimed at:

- Building a better community-based, disaster healthcare system;
- Strengthening the local healthcare system by fully integrating disaster preparedness into the daily delivery of care;
- Capitalizing on the links between private healthcare providers and public agencies and groups; and,
- Using an evidence informed approach to improving health and medical preparedness and response.

These objectives can be achieved by planning and organizing local healthcare provider involvement in emergency preparedness activities.

Other objectives include the ability for healthcare organizations to engage with Emergency Management agencies and groups during an incident or event to provide information and assist in the coordination of resource allocation for any affected healthcare organization.

HEALTHCARE COALITION REQUIREMENTS

Any HCC participating in federal grant support programs must adhere to the *Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities: National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness, January 2012*. This document is designed to facilitate and guide preparedness planning and ultimately assure safer, more resilient, and better-prepared communities.

To assist with the planning process, a summary is available that includes the capability definitions, functions, required and priority-based resource elements, and associated performance measures. The complete document, *Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities: National Guidance for Healthcare System Preparedness*, is available at: <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/reports/Documents/capabilities.pdf>.

General Requirements include:

- Ensure a defined Healthcare Coalition organizational structure.
- Conduct community-based risk assessments with local partners.
- Perform resource assessments and gap analyses.
- Identify and prioritize healthcare assets and essential services.
- Coordinate emergency preparedness activities for the local health and medical system.
- Develop operational plans in coordination with local Emergency Management agencies and groups.
- Identify capability gaps and coordinate training & exercise to address those gaps.
- Conduct exercises with local partners using risk-based objectives.
- Demonstrate performance improvement.

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