

Project Public Health Ready



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



Project Public Health Ready

Vision

Local health departments (LHDs) will be fully integrated into the response community and prepared to respond to any emergency.

Mission

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

History of PPHR

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), which began in 2003, is a collaborative activity between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other project partners. PPHR recognizes local health departments (LHDs) and regional public health entities as prepared to respond to emergency events and to protect the public's health. PPHR applicants must meet three specific areas of emergency preparedness: all-hazards preparedness planning, workforce capacity development, and demonstration of readiness through exercises or real events.

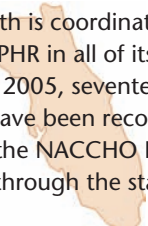
PPHR's current focus includes:

- implementing PPHR in LHDs and regions with the support of state health departments,
- re-recognizing past LHDs and regions whose PPHR recognition is expiring,
- updating the PPHR regional Criteria and process,
- creating an electronic submission system for applicants, and
- continuing collaboration with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

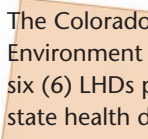
The PPHR State Supported Model

The goal of the PPHR State-Supported Model is to create a network of collaboration not only between a state health department and participating LHDs, but within an entire preparedness community. This includes partnerships with other first responders, local emergency management, medical staff, volunteer organizations, etc. PPHR can help to ensure that local needs are heard and met by state health departments. This model encourages state health departments to implement PPHR statewide and promote it as the framework for local emergency preparedness, which in turn improves statewide preparedness.

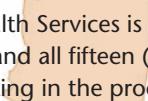
The following States are participating in the state-supported model:



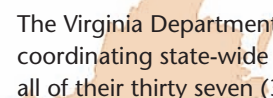
The Florida Department of Health is coordinating state-wide implementation of PPHR in all of its sixty-seven (67) counties. Since 2005, seventeen (17) local health departments have been recognized by NACCHO: four (4) through the NACCHO PPHR pilot process and thirteen (13) through the state-supported model.



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is coordinating PPHR state-wide, with six (6) LHDs participating in the first round. The state health department also plans to use PPHR to standardize public health preparedness (PHP) plans across all LHDs.



The Arizona Department of Health Services is implementing PPHR statewide and all fifteen (15) counties are currently participating in the process.



The Virginia Department of Health is also coordinating state-wide implementation of PPHR in all of their thirty seven (37) districts.

PPHR Criteria

The PPHR Criteria are divided into three goals based on the three areas of emergency management: all-hazards preparedness planning, workforce capacity development, and demonstration of readiness through exercises or real events. The Criteria are updated annually to ensure they reflect the most recent federal initiatives, such as the CDC Preparedness Metrics, the National Incident Management System (NIMS), Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), and the latest changes of the National Response Plan (NRP).

1. All-Hazards Response Plan

An all-hazards response plan provides a framework which describes the manner in which LHDs and their workforce will respond to an emergency, detailing the specific roles and responsibilities of their staff, and outlining any collaboration with external agencies. Without an all-hazards response plan, the necessary staff members can not be trained to meet their specific function in an emergency event. The plan allows the LHD to formulate the best response possible and delineate resources accordingly. Therefore, LHDs are required to develop a comprehensive plan, or make the necessary alterations to their current plan, as the first step towards PPHR recognition.

2. Workforce Capacity Development

As a core function of public health preparedness, LHD staff must be able to demonstrate organizational capacity through workforce development. This step of the Criteria involves assessment, implementation, and evaluation of the LHDs workforce capacity in order to meet the needs of a specific population. This section of the Criteria allows the LHDs to identify the gaps in their organizational and staff capacity and must employ development training for the staff in order to improve capacity.

3. Exercises

LHDs must show a proven track record in functional exercises, a tabletop exercise, or a real emergency situation. As a result of carrying out an exercise or responding to a real event, LHDs must create a plan of correction. The objectives that are formulated for the exercise plan need to be specific, measurable, and in HSEEP format.

Re-Recognition

All LHDs/regions who have been recognized may apply for re-recognition after four years. Re-recognition has already begun for the Year One LHDs who were originally recognized in 2004. The timeline and process for re-recognition is similar to that of the regular PPHR process. It includes an orientation meeting, a potential mid-year meeting and monthly conference calls. Criteria updates are provided annually to LHDs/regions, allowing them to stay current on their all-hazards preparedness planning, training, and exercising. NACCHO Staff are available for technical assistance throughout the entire process and all information shared will be tracked and documented.

Regional Public Health

The need for strong regional preparedness has been demonstrated through response efforts and exercises that have overwhelmed some local public health systems. Therefore it has become necessary to build and strengthen capacity across jurisdictional boundaries.

PPHR is currently in the process of updating and revising its regional criteria and process. The goal is to design regional criteria that will be up to date with regional preparedness initiatives and conducive to the work being conducted in regional public health. The updated version of the regional criteria will be developed by summer 2009.

PPHR Toolkit

The PPHR Toolkit is a searchable online database of best-practices, including tools and resources from recognized health departments. These tools will assist local health departments in addressing the PPHR Criteria.

Tools are searchable by topics within the PPHR Criteria. Sample topics include:

- Epidemiology
- Surge Capacity
- Mass Prophylaxis and Immunization
- Training Plan
- After Action Reports
- Future Exercise Plan

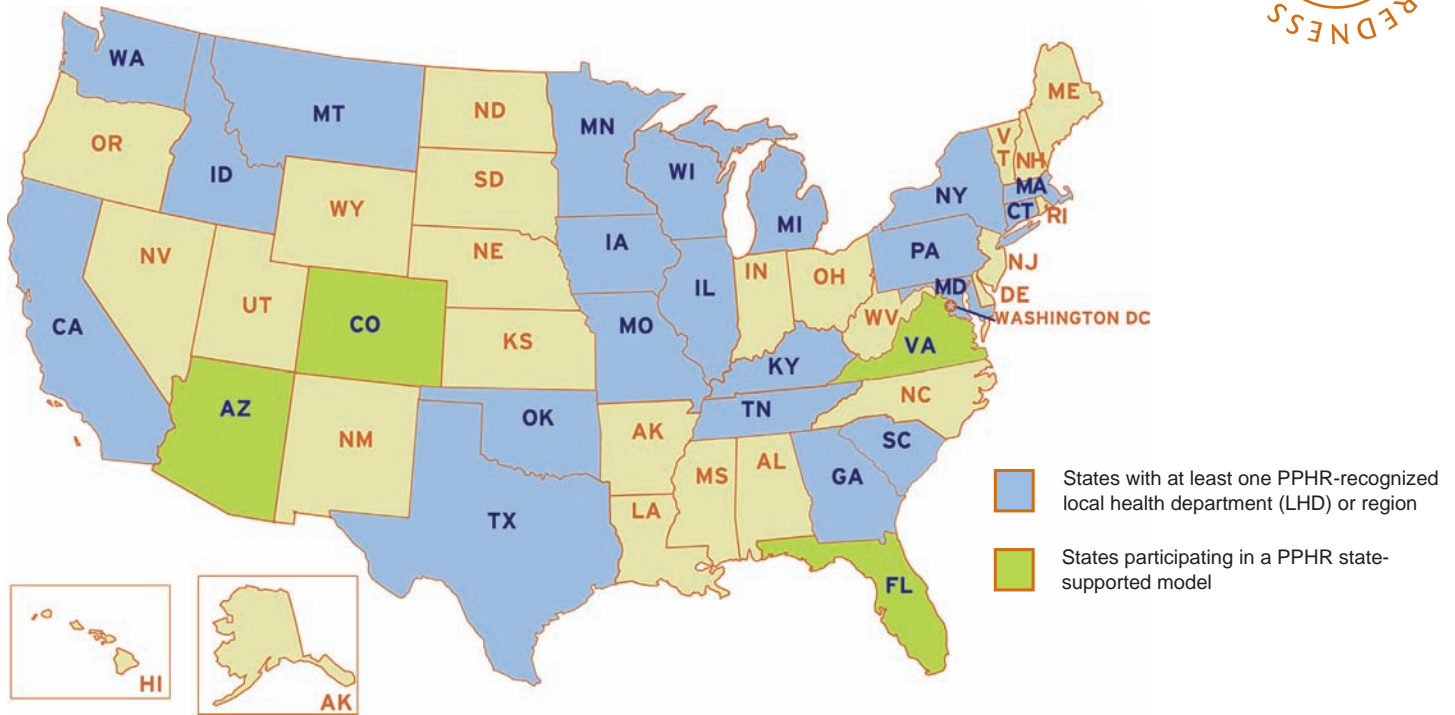
The PPHR Toolkit can be accessed at:

www.naccho.org/PPHRToolkit.



PROJECT PUBLIC HEALTH READY

Is Your State Ready?



FOR MORE INFORMATION

The PPHR Criteria, a complete listing of PPHR recognized agencies, and regional tools and resources can be found at: <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/PPHR/index.cfm>

Please contact NACCHO for more information regarding the state-supported model.

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NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

www.naccho.org



NACCHO is the national organization representing local health departments. NACCHO supports efforts that protect and improve the health of all people and all communities by promoting national policy, developing resources and programs, seeking health equity, and supporting effective local public health practice and systems.

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