



Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER)



Career Epidemiology Field Officer Program

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Career Epidemiology Field Officer (CEFO) Program places experienced epidemiologists in state and local health departments across the country to help them develop or strengthen capabilities in disease surveillance, outbreak investigations, epidemiologic studies, and public health practice, including preparedness and response activities related to terrorism and other public health emergencies. The CEFO Program is managed by CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response.

Experience

The CEFO Program seeks epidemiologists with several years of practical public health experience. CEFO candidates must have completed CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service training program or other comparable training.

Activities

CEFOs participate in a wide variety of activities:

- Developing or advising local health departments on response plans for terrorism, including biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events;
- Leading the state's planning and response activities for pandemic influenza;
- Providing epidemiologic consultation on state and local surveillance systems and outbreak investigation and response;
- Providing expertise for the design of epidemiological investigations, conducting studies as appropriate, analyzing data, and publishing findings;
- Leading or participating in state and/or local emergency response exercises;
- Developing and implementing workforce training and education related to epidemiology, preparedness, and emergency response; and
- Building partnerships with other agencies for emergency preparedness.

Assignments

Initial CEFO assignments typically last for at least two years, and may be renewed for an additional two years. Assignments take into account several factors, including:

- Agreement of a state to fund a position through its Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement with CDC,
- A state or locality's potential risk for terrorist attacks or natural disasters,
- Population size of the jurisdiction, and
- Existing epidemiologic capacity.

Recruitment Process

CDC recruits qualified candidates from within CDC as well as outside the agency. CDC reviews applications, conducts initial interviews, and forwards the names of the top qualified candidates to the state or locality. Representatives of the state or local health department may conduct interviews and provide input to CDC on the recruitment and selection process.

For more information, please contact the CEFO program at cefo@cdc.gov.