



# National Infrastructure Protection Plan

## Healthcare and Public Health Sector

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) identified 17 critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) sectors and designated Federal Government Sector-Specific Agencies (SSA) to facilitate safeguarding each. The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) established a public-private partnership model for critical infrastructure protection (CIP) efforts that includes Federal, State, local and tribal governments, and the private sector. Each CIKR sector is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) and reporting annually to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on CIKR protection progress and gap assessments. SSAs collaborate on risk management with public and private sector security partners. The SSA for the Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) Sector is the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

### Sector Overview

The HPH Sector constitutes approximately 15 percent of the gross national product with roughly 85 percent of the sector's assets privately owned and operated. Operating in all U.S. States, Territories, and tribal areas, the HPH Sector plays a significant role in response and recovery across all other sectors in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. While healthcare tends to be delivered and managed locally, the public-health component of the sector, focused primarily on population health, is managed across all levels of government—local, tribal, territorial, State, regional, and national.

The HPH Sector is highly dependent on fellow sectors for continuity of operations and service delivery including: the Energy, Water, Transportation, Emergency Services, Food & Agriculture, Information Technology, and Communications Sectors.

### Sector Vision

The HPH Sector's vision is to achieve overall resiliency against all threats—natural and man-made. Implementing this vision will prevent or minimize damage to, or destruction of, the Nation's healthcare and public health infrastructure. It will also preserve the sector's ability to mount timely and effective responses to both routine and emergency situations as it strives to protect its critical workforce from harm resulting from terrorist or criminal activities, natural disasters, and serious infectious disease outbreaks, including those originating outside the United States.

### Sector Partnerships

HHS partners with DHS to implement the NIPP sector partnership model and risk management framework. HHS supported the formation of a Health Sector Coordinating

Council (HSCC) that comprises sub-councils representing private sector industries and interest areas within the sector. HHS also established a Government Coordinating Council (GCC) including representatives from all levels of government. As the partnership has matured, the SCC and GCC have established a series of collaborative workgroups and invited subject matter experts to assist in achieving specific CIP goals and objectives. One such workgroup is addressing HPH CIP Research and Development needs and capability gaps, specifically in the areas of medical surge and workforce sustainability in the face of a disaster or public health emergency. Another workgroup's focus is on establishing measures and metrics that will allow the sector to assess progress in reaching infrastructure protection goals, taking into account challenges and impacts. Additional workgroups will be formed to focus on various objectives identified to enhance protection, security and resiliency within the sector.

An essential component for the success of the public-private partnership is effective and timely information sharing. The sector is working closely with DHS and its sector partners to establish a communications mechanism that will address a wide range of collaboration needs and will serve as an information repository as well as a conduit for sharing with sector partners specific information on threats and alerts.

### CIKR Protection Focus

Given the relatively large number of sector assets, particularly hospitals and clinics, protecting and preventing damage to any one asset is less vital than the ability to continue to deliver care. The focus is more on the sector as a system that must remain resilient in the face of all hazards. The HPH Sector focuses on consequence management as a form of risk reduction, integrating CIP principles with surge planning, response and recovery operations.

### Priority Programs

Within the HPH Sector, protective programs have evolved as a result of the changing regulatory landscape, emergency response and recovery requirements, and rapid advancements in technology. Some of these programs include:

- **Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)** performs vulnerability assessments and manages the procurement and advanced development of medical countermeasures under Project BioShield.
- **National Public Health Information Systems.** The Public Health Information Network (PHIN) is an initiative to develop interoperable public health information systems; the Early Warning Infectious Disease Program (EWIDS) focuses on early detection, identification, and reporting of infectious diseases associated with bioterrorism agents and other major threats to public health.
- **Various Grants Programs** focus on enhancing and encouraging sector facility protection and preparedness, such as the HHS Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement, the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and the Buffer Zone Protection Program (BZPP).
- **Vulnerability Assessments** are conducted on critical assets within the HPH Sector through various programs such as BARDA and the DHS Protective Security Advisor (PSA) program.
- **Medical Facility and Clinical Laboratory Accreditation** promotes effective protective programs within healthcare facilities through the Joint Commission and other accreditation and clinical laboratory certification organizations.
- **Information Security.** The sector participates in the National Cyber Security Division's Cross-Sector Cyber Security initiative, a public-private partnership to further collaboration and information sharing related to cyber threats.



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