

Emergency Preparedness Grant Coordination

Background

The Emergency Preparedness Grant Coordination effort is a multi-agency activity that identifies preparedness activities and areas for collaboration across federal grants with public health and healthcare preparedness components. Each agency has a unique role in supporting essential activities for preparing the Nation for public health emergencies and disasters. Together, these agencies strengthen accountability, strategic alignment, and strategic connectivity across programs, policies and activities.

This endeavor was directed by the White House and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA). One of the goals in PAHPA is to minimize duplication of, and ensure coordination between, federal, state, local, and tribal planning. PAHPA also called for the development of a National Health Security Strategy (NHSS), aligned with the National Preparedness System, to ensure the security of the United States through systematic preparation against threats. National Health Security is a state in which the Nation and its people are prepared for, protected from, and resilient in the face of incidents with health consequences.

In 2011, and again in 2014, five agencies signed an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize their commitment to health emergency preparedness grant coordination and to outline the expected outcomes.

Purpose

Grant coordination will optimize the Nation's investments in homeland security, emergency public health, and healthcare preparedness by providing a framework for the interagency to:

- Consider options for coordinating the administration of homeland security, emergency public health and healthcare preparedness grants
- Ensure consistency among grant program guidance documents
- Align the grant programs of the participating agencies to better support national strategies

Current Activities

The following priorities were established by the participating agencies for 2014 - 2016:

- Streamline and integrate overlapping or competing requirements, policy guidance, executive orders, and frameworks related to health-related emergency preparedness
- Develop collaborative planning and doctrine documentation on key issues that can be incorporated into grant guidance and technical assistance across programs
- Improve coordination of grant opportunity documentation, terminology and requirements
- Improve joint communication and outreach to stakeholders to improve consistency of message, strengthen coordination of effort, and ensure all stakeholder perspectives are heard
- Coordinate methods to identify, manage and understand the impacts associated with various risks

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Grant Coordination Agencies

- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- HHS Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Department of Transportation (DOT) National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)