

Developing a Workplan for a Region 3 PHEPR Center and Establishing a Regional Coordinating Body

Project Background

The field of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) plays a crucial role in protecting public health and responding to emergencies. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and other recent events have revealed significant gaps in knowledge and practice within the PHEPR field. To enhance the uptake of PHEPR evidence-based interventions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to establish 10 regional PHEPR Centers across the country. These Centers will respond to specific needs and gaps in PHEPR practices at the state, territorial, local, and tribal (STLT) levels. In advance of establishing these Centers, CDC has funded projects across the US to convene Regional Coordinating Bodies and develop workplans for translating evidence into practice for preparedness and response for future regional PHEPR Centers.

With the support of CDC, the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) research team will coordinate the planning process and develop the PHEPR Center workplan for Region 3 (MD, VA, WV, PA, DE, and DC). To achieve this, JHU will recruit and convene a diverse Regional Coordinating Body to evaluate the specific needs and gaps in emergency preparedness and response for Region 3 and develop a workplan for a Center to guide real-world improvements in preparedness and response for the future.

Specifically, the Regional Coordinating Body aims to:

1. Represent Region 3's preparedness and response needs, including its diverse populations.
2. Determine priorities for future work to translate PHEPR research into practice.
3. Ensure that a workplan will strengthen preparedness and response for Region 3.

The Coordinating Body will include representatives from state and local health departments, tribal governments, healthcare facilities, healthcare coalitions, academic institutions, and public and private sectors with experience in PHEPR or emergency management specific to the region. The team will prioritize the representation of diverse populations and will include historically underrepresented voices in preparedness and response discussions. Once formed, the Coordinating Body will develop a workplan to serve as a guide for the work of a future Region 3 PHEPR Center.

The Coordinating Body will participate in **4–5 virtual 3-hour meetings via Zoom** and other activities listed below over the next 10 months:

- An initial kick-off meeting via Zoom on **January 9, 2024**.
- Two 3-hour meetings via Zoom, tentatively scheduled on **February 13 and March 18, 2024**, to discuss major anticipated disasters and associated risks in Region 3, as well as priorities for translating evidence-based strategies and interventions to practice.
- A 3-hour meeting via Zoom, tentatively scheduled for **June 6, 2024**, to develop and provide feedback on a 5-year regional work plan.
- A possible 5th 3-hour meeting on **July 9, 2024**, if additional workplan review is needed.
- Requests for **feedback on 3 workplan drafts** via email and during Coordinating Body meeting(s).

Coordinating Body members will be eligible to receive a \$500 honorarium (government employees may not be allowed to accept this honorarium) after reviewing drafts of the workplan at the end of the project. Participation will contribute to future improvements in preparedness and response for your community.

For more information or to express interest in joining the Coordinating Body, please contact Vanessa Grégoire (vgregoi1@jh.edu) or Aishwarya Nagar (anagar1@jhu.edu) by **December 1, 2023**.

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