

Community Resilience Unit Overview



Mission: To enhance community readiness and support the delivery of healthcare services to vulnerable populations most at-risk for poor health outcomes during and after a disaster or incident.

Vision: Communities and health care systems will have the sustained ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from health related emergency events.

Purpose: A whole community approach to building community resilience requires finding ways to support and strengthen the institutions, assets and networks already working well in communities to address issues important to community members. Existing structures and relationships present in the daily lives of individuals, families, businesses and organizations before an incident occurs can be leveraged and empowered to act effectively during and after a disaster strikes. This approach involves:



- Understanding and meeting the needs of the whole community
- Engaging and empowering all parts of the community
- Strengthening what works well in communities on a daily basis

Program Authority/Funding: Chapters 252 and 381, Florida Statutes. The department receives funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreements.

Community Resilience aligns with/or supports:

[Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness 2014-2017 Strategic Plan](#)

Goal 3: Information Sharing

Goal 4: Surge Management

Goal 5: Countermeasures and Mitigation

Goal 7: Community and Health Care System Resilience (includes Florida defined capability Critical Infrastructure Protection)

[ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Capabilities](#)

Capability 1: Healthcare System Preparedness

Capability 2: Healthcare System Recovery

Capability 10: Medical Surge (supported capability)

[CDC Public Health Preparedness Capabilities](#)

Capability 1: Community Preparedness

Capability 2: Community Recovery

Capability 7: Mass Care (supported capability)

Capability 8: Medical Countermeasure Dispensing

Capability 10: Medical Surge (supported capability)

Capability 11: Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Strategic Planning Strategies: Community Resilience requires an informed, empowered and resilient public; and a prepared health care system.

The Florida Public Health and Health Care Preparedness Community Resilience Strategies are:

- Provide medical countermeasures in support of treatment or prophylaxis to the identified population in accordance with public health guidelines and/or recommendations.
- Recommend, implement and rescind applicable, non-pharmaceutical interventions for disease, injury and exposure control.
- Engage and coordinate with multidisciplinary partners to prepare communities and health systems to prevent, when possible, respond and recover from incidents or events.
- Collaborate with partners to develop a plan and advocate the execution of a plan for the rebuilding of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health systems to at least pre-incident functioning levels.
- Identify, assess, prioritize, evaluate and protect statewide Public Health and Health Care System Infrastructure.

Initiatives: The unit supports counties in preparedness and recovery planning and assessment of public health, medical and mental/behavioral health needs before, during and after a disaster. Community Resilience Unit programs, projects and resources strengthen and sustain Public Health Preparedness Capabilities through the following initiatives:

Children’s Disaster Preparedness – Resilient communities plan for and have the expertise, skills and resources necessary to manage the emergency preparedness and response needs of children. The unit supports the integration of children’s disaster needs in state and local disaster planning, policies and partnerships. A statewide Children’s Preparedness Coalition generates planning considerations.

Cities Readiness Initiative – Resilient communities are equipped and ready to respond within 48 hours to provide **medical countermeasures** such as drugs, vaccines and diagnostics that may be needed to lessen the effects of a public health emergency. The unit works with and provides tools and resources to counties for establishing, sustaining and evaluating local projects for distribution and dispensing of countermeasures.

Critical Infrastructure Protection – Resilient communities can identify, assess, prioritize and protect critical infrastructure and key resources so that the risk to, vulnerability of and consequences of damage to critical infrastructure is reduced or eliminated. The unit works with critical infrastructure partners to access facilities and train security and safety managers.

Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams – Resilient communities monitor behavioral health and address psychological preparedness to enable persons to better care for themselves and provide support to other at-risk individuals. The unit supports counties in mitigating the adverse effects of disaster related trauma by promoting psychological well-being and daily life functioning in impacted individuals, responders and communities. Trained and exercised teams apply the concepts of psychological first aid to help overcome the initial impact for those affected by disasters.

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness – Resilient communities are prepared to take action, after an incident, before outside assistance can be received by building neighborhood response networks. The unit works with neighborhoods in engaging and mobilizing teams to plan, prepare, educate and build capacity to foster self-sufficiency.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions – Resilient communities have the ability to implement strategies for disease, injury and exposure control that are apart from getting vaccinated and taking medications. The unit works with partners and subject matter experts to assist counties in planning and guidance for strategies that may include social distancing, case containment measures, decontamination and infection control measures and protective behaviors.

Project Public Health Ready – Resilient communities have local county health departments with the capacity and capability to respond to any emergency. The unit works with counties in encouraging and supporting their efforts to meet national program competency-based standards of readiness.

Vulnerable Population Preparedness – Resilient communities plan for meeting the needs of at-risk individuals and those with access and functional needs. The unit supports counties in identifying and assessing the risk of vulnerable populations, as well as integrating the needs of vulnerable populations in preparedness planning, training and exercises.

Partners: County health departments, Florida Division of Emergency Management, American Red Cross, Florida state agencies, statewide disability and aging organizations, faith-based organizations, volunteer organizations, healthcare coalitions and other health care system partners.

Contact Information: Victor Johnson, Community Resilience Administrator at 850-245-4346 or BPR.CommResCHDSupport@flhealth.gov.

For more information on the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Community Resilience programs and initiatives see individual program fact sheets or go to: www.floridahealth.gov/preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/community-resilience or www.floridahealth.gov and enter the word “resilience” in the search box.