

The Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium earns national recognition in emergency preparedness

Congratulations to NIPHC for earning recognition as Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) certified! PPHR is a collaborative activity between the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)



and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its mission is to prepare staff of local governmental public health departments

to respond to emergencies and to protect the public's health through a competency-based training and recognition program. Project Public Health Ready requires each individual or regional site to meet certain emergency preparedness criteria, which have been divided into three main overall goals: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning, Workforce Competency Development, and Exercises Simulations. More information is found at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/pphr.cfm>

In this issue:

Project Public Health Ready	1
Pandemic Flu Preparedness	2
Local Health Protection Grant	2
Fiscal Agent Name Change	3
Public Health Institutes	3
Regional Media Strategy	4
About NIPHC	4



Project Public Health Ready awards ceremony at the NACCHO Meeting in San Antonio on July 27, 2006. Pictured above are (from left): Dr. Poki Namkung, Dr. Rex Archer, Dr. Stephen Martin, Dr. Terry Mason, Christina Welter, Harold Cox, Paul Kuehnert, Dr. Patrick Lenihan

Pandemic Flu Planning

NIPHC and its members have worked hard to develop local infrastructure and have also made great strides on regional coordination. Pandemic flu is not only a serious threat to all NIPHC local health departments (LHDs), but it also presents an opportunity to continue joint planning efforts. NIPHC facilitated a series of regional and individual pan flu tabletop exercises throughout the Northern Illinois region over the summer. The exercises involved LHD



Photo courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control, 2006

leaders, IDPH preparedness staff, and community partners such as the police, fire brigade, schools, and hospitals. The exercises explored central preparedness issues such as plan functionality, group decision making processes, the effectiveness of communications channels and protocols, and coordination and implementation of strategies for coping with resource shortages. NIPHC has recently submitted a letter of concurrence for the second level of pandemic flu preparedness funding.

Local Health Protection Grant Increase

For the first time in several years, local health departments (LHDs) have been allocated a \$3 million statewide increase in the Local Health Protection Grant (LHPG), a major fund to LHDs. The primary uses of the LHPG are: Infectious Diseases, Food Protection, Potable Water Supply, and Private Sewage Disposal. NIPHC and the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators (IAPHA) worked collaboratively to develop a framework for allocation of the \$3 million increase in the LHPG that is consistent

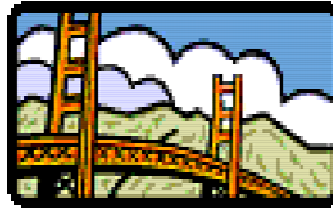
with the rules but also recognizes the varying circumstances of LHDs statewide and other funding that supports local public health efforts. IDPH has been very helpful in developing scenarios for how this allocation might be achieved consistent with major provisions of the rules. This allocation is based on an acceptance by both public health associations of minimum awards as a necessary component of the Local Health Protection Grant in order to build local public health infrastructure statewide, which is the major purpose of the grant.

A snapshot of the new FY07 allocations for NIPHC member health agencies:

	FY07 Award	Increase	% Increase
Chicago	2,540,278	677,474	36.37%
Cook	2,061,594	366,328	21.61%
DuPage	728,037	126,272	20.98%
Grundey	63,201	11,131	21.38%
Kane	348,470	71,804	25.95%
Kankakee	223,151	23,806	11.94%
Kendall	63,201	11,131	21.38%
Lake	522,994	102,830	24.47%
McHenry	189,705	38,751	25.67%
Will	437,877	82,184	23.11%
Winnebago	425,334	56,583	15.34%
TOTAL for NIPHC	7,603,843	1,568,295	

What's in a name?

NIPHC's fiscal agent The Chicago Center for Health Systems Development has formally changed its name to *The Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago*. The name change reflects its recent designation as a public health institute and membership



of the National Network of Public Health Institutes. The Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago looks forward to working with their partners, including NIPHC, under this new identity and enhanced mission.

Public Health Institutes

Public health institutes are multi-sector organizations which form unique partnerships with the government, the business community, academia, and other non-profits for the purpose of creating effective systems for improving public health. Public health institutes foster innovation, create efficient administrative structures, and provide technical support in reaching out to partners outside of the usual governmental arena. The National Network of Public Health Institutes is a membership

organization funded by the Centers for Disease Control and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to recognize and enhance the work being done by these emerging collaborative entities.





NIPHC Regional Media Project

NIPHC has launched a regional media project with The Consortium for Risk and Crisis Communications (CRCC) and Widmeyer Communications, communication experts with experience at the national, state, county, and local level. CRCC has conducted extensive crisis communication research for the Centers for Disease Control on bioterrorism and crisis communication, which provides CRCC with unique knowledge related to bioterrorism and crisis communication. This research also provides the foundation for the public education, trainings, and consultation activities of CRCC. CRCC is the only organization in the country that conducts research in this arena and offers strategy development and trainings based on this research.

The goal of NIPHC is to conduct a comprehensive communication-specific assessment to identify:

- Communications strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges across NIPHC agencies and with partner organizations.
- Opportunities to increase and improve partnership communications through joint messages, strategy and program development.
- Strategies to promote and establish NIPHC members as the go-to information resource for the public and media before, during and after a public health emergency.
- Strategies to increase public awareness and involvement of individuals, families and communities in all-hazards preparedness
- Opportunities to secure funding for local and regional emergency communication initiatives.

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The Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium is a 501 (c)(4) organization of the public health departments of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will and Winnebago Counties and the City of Chicago, along with affiliate members Grundy, Kankakee and Kendall Counties. NIPHC is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of the region's local public health departments to respond to both anticipated and unanticipated threats to the health of the public. The Board Members of the local health departments comprising NIPHC initially met in the fall of 1999, and NIPHC was established as a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization in July 2002.