

University of South Florida: Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center - Overview

The mission of the University of South Florida Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (USF PERLC) is to improve Florida's and the nation's public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities during emergencies. The USF PERLC does so by collaboratively developing and delivering core competency-based training and education to the public health workforce. This training program responds to needs of state, local, and tribal public health authorities, and emphasizes essential public health security capabilities.

Partners

The USF PERLC, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health Central Office, County Health Departments, and the Sarasota County Community Organizations Active in Disasters (SC COAD), develops and delivers community preparedness, response, and recovery systems training.

National Network of Learning Centers

The USF PERLC is part of a network of training centers, called the Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC), which is funded by the CDC. The PERLC serve in a national capacity to meet the preparedness and response training and education needs of the US public health workforce. The PERLC provide competency-based training to state, local, and tribal public health authorities within defined service areas. In doing so, PERLC provide specialized training, education, and resources, in addition to exercising consultations for partners on request. PERLC are acknowledged for their unique capacity to adapt and tailor preparedness training to meet stakeholder requirements. The PERLC are established within the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited schools of public health and serve as an important national resource to meet the requirements of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA), Sec. 304 (d).

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror07/PAHPAPublicLaw.pdf>

Key Activities

Design, Develop, and Deliver Core Competency-based Training for Florida's Public Health Workforce

- Design a curriculum and implementation plan for core competency-based training that targets Florida's public health workforce
- Identify and adapt existing training, exercises, and tools that support mastery and performance of the Public Health Preparedness and Response Core Competencies, and adhere to the established design and development standards, requirements, and guidelines

Design, Develop, and Deliver Partner-Requested Education and Training

- Collaborate with the Florida Department of Health, localities, territories, and tribal public health authorities to define the public health preparedness and response needs of Florida and the nation's public health workforce
- Develop and deliver new training that expands upon core competency-based training or other existing training to meet documented state and local partner-identified needs

Participate in Program Core and Network Activities

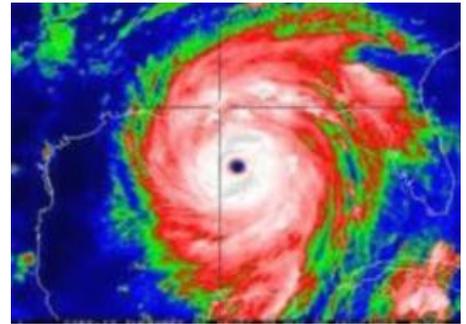
- Develop partnerships with public health authorities within Florida
- Collaborate on the development of standardized training evaluation measures for use across the PERLC network



Key Accomplishments

USF PERLC Coalition Project

The Coalition Project brings teams from participating counties together for a three-day on-site training. This on-site training is the beginning of a customized two-year program which strives to improve community preparedness and recovery as well as strengthen the resiliency of communities. Our program is based upon successful programs and processes such as the strike team approach used in Sarasota, the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan process used in Hillsborough and other Florida counties, and other successes that were determined by research and learned from participants. The training was developed by a partnership between the USF PERLC, Sarasota County Health and Human Services, and the Sarasota County Community Organizations Active in Disasters. Trainings were held in Spring and Summer 2012 for participants from 23 Florida counties, representing about 67% of the state's total population or about 12.7 million people. Two additional trainings will be offered for all remaining counties in Florida. Team composition is very important; staff members from emergency management, health and human services, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector are included. The curriculum takes a step-by-step approach to providing knowledge, skills, and planning tools related to coalition partnership-building and sustaining activities, organizational structure, and communication.



Demand Exceeds Supply

The USF PERLC used e-marketing of on-site training programs to communicate the availability of on-site training opportunities to address Florida's public health workforce development needs. USF PERLC continues to respond to the preparedness training requests of state and local partners.

Networking

The USF PERLC continues to work with university, local, and state partners to collaborate on the design, development and delivery of training programs.

Contact Information

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CDC Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Centers (PERLC)

For more information about the PERLC program please email us at perlcprogram@cdc.gov or visit our website at <http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/perlc.htm>.