

(4) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

(Pub. L. 109-347, title VII, § 709, Oct. 13, 2006, 120 Stat. 1947.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, referred to in subsec. (b)(7), is section 264(c) of Pub. L. 104-191, which is set out as a note under section 1320d-2 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006, also known as the SAFE Port Act, and not as part of the Public Health Service Act which comprises this chapter.

§ 300hh-15. Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps**(a) In general**

Not later than 180 days after December 19, 2006, the Secretary, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal officials, shall build on State, local, and tribal programs in existence on December 19, 2006, to establish and maintain a Medical Reserve Corps (referred to in this section as the “Corps”) to provide for an adequate supply of volunteers in the case of a Federal, State, local, or tribal public health emergency. The Corps shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall oversee the activities of the Corps chapters that exist at the State, local, and tribal levels.

(b) State, local, and tribal coordination

The Corps shall be established using existing State, local, and tribal teams and shall not alter such teams.

(c) Composition

The Corps shall be composed of individuals who—

(1)(A) are health professionals who have appropriate professional training and expertise as determined appropriate by the Director of the Corps; or

(B) are non-health professionals who have an interest in serving in an auxiliary or support capacity to facilitate access to health care services in a public health emergency;

(2) are certified in accordance with the certification program developed under subsection (d);

(3) are geographically diverse in residence;

(4) have registered and carry out training exercises with a local chapter of the Medical Reserve Corps; and

(5) indicate whether they are willing to be deployed outside the area in which they reside in the event of a public health emergency.

(d) Certification; drills**(1) Certification**

The Director, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal officials, shall establish a process for the periodic certification of individuals who volunteer for the Corps, as determined by the Secretary, which shall include the completion by each individual of the core training programs developed under section

247d-6 of this title, as required by the Director. Such certification shall not supercede State licensing or credentialing requirements.

(2) Drills

In conjunction with the core training programs referred to in paragraph (1), and in order to facilitate the integration of trained volunteers into the health care system at the local level, Corps members shall engage in periodic training exercises to be carried out at the local level.

(e) Deployment

During a public health emergency, the Secretary shall have the authority to activate and deploy willing members of the Corps to areas of need, taking into consideration the public health and medical expertise required, with the concurrence of the State, local, or tribal officials from the area where the members reside.

(f) Expenses and transportation

While engaged in performing duties as a member of the Corps pursuant to an assignment by the Secretary (including periods of travel to facilitate such assignment), members of the Corps who are not otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall be allowed travel or transportation expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

(g) Identification

The Secretary, in cooperation and consultation with the States, shall develop a Medical Reserve Corps Identification Card that describes the licensure and certification information of Corps members, as well as other identifying information determined necessary by the Secretary.

(h) Intermittent disaster-response personnel**(1) In general**

For the purpose of assisting the Corps in carrying out duties under this section, during a public health emergency, the Secretary may appoint selected individuals to serve as intermittent personnel of such Corps in accordance with applicable civil service laws and regulations. In all other cases, members of the Corps are subject to the laws of the State in which the activities of the Corps are undertaken.

(2) Applicable protections

Subsections (c)(2), (d), and (e) of section 300hh-11 of this title shall apply to an individual appointed under paragraph (1) in the same manner as such subsections apply to an individual appointed under section 300hh-11(c) of this title.

(3) Limitation

State, local, and tribal officials shall have no authority to designate a member of the Corps as Federal intermittent disaster-response personnel, but may request the services of such members.

(i) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$22,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, §2813, as added Pub. L. 109-417, title III, §303(a), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2856.)

§ 300hh-16. At-risk individuals

The Secretary, acting through such employee of the Department of Health and Human Services as determined by the Secretary and designated publicly (which may, at the discretion of the Secretary, involve the appointment or designation of an individual as the Director of At-Risk Individuals), shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of the National Preparedness goal of taking into account the public health and medical needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency, as described in section 300hh-1(b)(4) of this title;

(2) assist other Federal agencies responsible for planning for, responding to, and recovering from public health emergencies in addressing the needs of at-risk individuals;

(3) provide guidance to and ensure that recipients of State and local public health grants include preparedness and response strategies and capabilities that take into account the medical and public health needs of at-risk individuals in the event of a public health emergency, as described in section 247d-3a(b)(2)(A)(iii) of this title;

(4) ensure that the contents of the strategic national stockpile take into account at-risk populations as described in section 300hh-10(b)(3)(B)¹ of this title;

(5) oversee the progress of the Advisory Committee on At-Risk Individuals and Public Health Emergencies established under section 247d-6(b)(2) of this title and make recommendations with a focus on opportunities for action based on the work of the Committee;

(6) oversee curriculum development for the public health and medical response training program on medical management of casualties, as it concerns at-risk individuals as described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 247d-6(a)(2) of this title;

(7) disseminate novel and best practices of outreach to and care of at-risk individuals before, during, and following public health emergencies; and

(8) not later than one year after December 19, 2006, prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made on implementing the duties described in this section.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, §2814, as added Pub. L. 109-417, title I, §102(d), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2834.)

§ 300hh-17. Emergency response coordination of primary care providers

The Secretary, acting through Administrator¹ of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, shall

(1) provide guidance and technical assistance to health centers funded under section 254b of

this title and to State and local health departments and emergency managers to integrate health centers into State and local emergency response plans and to better meet the primary care needs of populations served by health centers during public health emergencies; and

(2) encourage employees at health centers funded under section 254b of this title to participate in emergency medical response programs including the National Disaster Medical System authorized in section 300hh-11 of this title, the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps authorized in section 300hh-15 of this title, and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Health Professions Volunteers authorized in section 247d-7b of this title.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title XXVIII, §2815, as added Pub. L. 110-355, §6(a), Oct. 8, 2008, 122 Stat. 3994.)

PART C—STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

§ 300hh-31. Epidemiology-laboratory capacity grants

(a) In general

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant Program to award grants to State health departments as well as local health departments and tribal jurisdictions that meet such criteria as the Director determines appropriate. Academic centers that assist State and eligible local and tribal health departments may also be eligible for funding under this section as the Director determines appropriate. Grants shall be awarded under this section to assist public health agencies in improving surveillance for, and response to, infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance by—

(1) strengthening epidemiologic capacity to identify and monitor the occurrence of infectious diseases and other conditions of public health importance;

(2) enhancing laboratory practice as well as systems to report test orders and results electronically;

(3) improving information systems including developing and maintaining an information exchange using national guidelines and complying with capacities and functions determined by an advisory council established and appointed by the Director; and

(4) developing and implementing prevention and control strategies.

(b) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$190,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013, of which—

(1) not less than \$95,000,000 shall be made available each such fiscal year for activities under paragraphs (1) and (4) of subsection (a);

(2) not less than \$60,000,000 shall be made available each such fiscal year for activities under subsection (a)(3); and

(3) not less than \$32,000,000 shall be made available each such fiscal year for activities under subsection (a)(2).

¹ So in original. Section 300hh-10(b)(3) of this title does not contain subpars.

¹ So in original. Probably should be preceded by “the”.