

(e) Consistency of planned activities

The Secretary may not award a cooperative agreement to an eligible entity described in subsection (b)(1) unless the application submitted by the entity is coordinated and consistent with an applicable State All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and relevant local plans, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with relevant State health officials.

(f) Limitation on awards

A political subdivision shall not participate in more than one partnership described in subsection (b)(1).

(g) Coordination with local response capabilities

An eligible entity shall, to the extent practicable, ensure that activities carried out under an award under subsection (a) are coordinated with activities of relevant local Metropolitan Medical Response Systems, local Medical Reserve Corps, the Cities Readiness Initiative, and local emergency plans.

(h) Maintenance of funding**(1) In general**

An entity that receives an award under this section shall maintain expenditures for health care preparedness at a level that is not less than the average level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the preceding 2 year period.

(2) Rule of construction

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of awards under this section to pay salary and related expenses of public health and other professionals employed by State, local, or tribal agencies who are carrying out activities supported by such awards (regardless of whether the primary assignment of such personnel is to carry out such activities).

(i) Performance and accountability

The requirements of section 247d-3a(g), (j), and (k) of this title shall apply to entities receiving awards under this section (regardless of whether such entities are described under subsection (b)(1)(A) or (b)(2)(A)) in the same manner as such requirements apply to entities under section 247d-3a of this title. An entity described in subsection (b)(1)(A) shall make such reports available to the lead health official of the State in which such partnership is located.

(j) Authorization of appropriations**(1) In general**

For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$474,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

(2) Reservation of amounts for partnerships

Prior to making awards described in paragraph (3), the Secretary may reserve from the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary for making awards to entities described in subsection (b)(1)(A).

(3) Awards to States and political subdivisions**(A) In general**

From amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under paragraph (1) and not reserved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make awards to entities described in subsection (b)(2)(A) that have completed an application as described in subsection (b)(2)(B).

(B) Amount

The Secretary shall determine the amount of an award to each entity described in subparagraph (A) in the same manner as such amounts are determined under section 247d-3a(i) of this title.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §319C-2, as added Pub. L. 107-188, title I, §131(a), June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 624; amended Pub. L. 109-417, title III, §305, Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2861; Pub. L. 110-85, title XI, §1104(1), Sept. 27, 2007, 121 Stat. 975.)

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (j)(3)(B). Pub. L. 110-85 substituted “section 247d-3a(i)” for “section 247d-3a(h)”.

2006—Pub. L. 109-417 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subsecs. (a) to (i) relating to partnerships for community and hospital preparedness.

§ 247d-4. Revitalizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**(a) Facilities; capacities****(1) Findings**

Congress finds that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has an essential role in defending against and combatting public health threats domestically and abroad and requires secure and modern facilities, and expanded and improved capabilities related to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, sufficient to enable such Centers to conduct this important mission.

(2) Facilities**(A) In general**

The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may design, construct, and equip new facilities, renovate existing facilities (including laboratories, laboratory support buildings, scientific communication facilities, transshipment complexes, secured and isolated parking structures, office buildings, and other facilities and infrastructure), and upgrade security of such facilities, in order to better conduct the capacities described in section 247d-1 of this title, and for supporting public health activities.

(B) Multiyear contracting authority

For any project of designing, constructing, equipping, or renovating any facility under subparagraph (A), the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may enter into a single contract or related contracts that collectively include the full scope of the project, and the solicitation and contract shall contain the clause “availability of funds” found at section 52.232-18 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) Improving the capacities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Secretary shall expand, enhance, and improve the capabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to preparedness for and responding effectively to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. Activities that may be carried out under the preceding sentence include—

(A) expanding or enhancing the training of personnel;

(B) improving communications facilities and networks, including delivery of necessary information to rural areas;

(C) improving capabilities for public health surveillance and reporting activities, taking into account the integrated system or systems of public health alert communications and surveillance networks under subsection (b) of this section; and

(D) improving laboratory facilities related to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, including increasing the security of such facilities.

(b) National communications and surveillance networks

(1) In general

The Secretary, directly or through awards of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, shall provide for the establishment of an integrated system or systems of public health alert communications and surveillance networks between and among—

(A) Federal, State, and local public health officials;

(B) public and private health-related laboratories, hospitals, and other health care facilities; and

(C) any other entities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) Requirements

The Secretary shall ensure that networks under paragraph (1) allow for the timely sharing and discussion, in a secure manner, of essential information concerning bioterrorism or another public health emergency, or recommended methods for responding to such an attack or emergency.

(3) Standards

Not later than one year after June 12, 2002, the Secretary, in cooperation with health care providers and State and local public health officials, shall establish any additional technical and reporting standards (including standards for interoperability) for networks under paragraph (1).

(c) Authorization of appropriations

(1) Facilities; capacities

(A) Facilities

For the purpose of carrying out subsection (a)(2) of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$300,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

(B) Mission; improving capacities

For the purposes of achieving the mission of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention described in subsection (a)(1) of this section, for carrying out subsection (a)(3) of this section, for better conducting the capacities described in section 247d-1 of this title, and for supporting public health activities, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

(2) National communications and surveillance networks

For the purpose of carrying out subsection (b) of this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

(d) Public health situational awareness

(1) In general

Not later than 2 years after December 19, 2006, the Secretary, in collaboration with State, local, and tribal public health officials, shall establish a near real-time electronic nationwide public health situational awareness capability through an interoperable network of systems to share data and information to enhance early detection of rapid response to, and management of, potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies that originate domestically or abroad. Such network shall be built on existing State situational awareness systems or enhanced systems that enable such connectivity.

(2) Strategic plan

Not later than 180 days after December 19, 2006, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, a strategic plan that demonstrates the steps the Secretary will undertake to develop, implement, and evaluate the network described in paragraph (1), utilizing the elements described in paragraph (3).

(3) Elements

The network described in paragraph (1) shall include data and information transmitted in a standardized format from—

(A) State, local, and tribal public health entities, including public health laboratories;

(B) Federal health agencies;

(C) zoonotic disease monitoring systems;

(D) public and private sector health care entities, hospitals, pharmacies, poison control centers or professional organizations in the field of poison control, and clinical laboratories, to the extent practicable and provided that such data are voluntarily provided simultaneously to the Secretary and appropriate State, local, and tribal public health agencies; and

(E) such other sources as the Secretary may deem appropriate.

(4) Rule of construction

Paragraph (3) shall not be construed as requiring separate reporting of data and information from each source listed.

(5) Required activities

In establishing and operating the network described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) utilize applicable interoperability standards as determined by the Secretary through a joint public and private sector process;

(B) define minimal data elements for such network;

(C) in collaboration with State, local, and tribal public health officials, integrate and build upon existing State, local, and tribal capabilities, ensuring simultaneous sharing of data, information, and analyses from the network described in paragraph (1) with State, local, and tribal public health agencies; and

(D) in collaboration with State, local, and tribal public health officials, develop procedures and standards for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data that States, regions, or other entities collect and report to the network described in paragraph (1).

(e) State and regional systems to enhance situational awareness in public health emergencies

(1) In general

To implement the network described in subsection (d), the Secretary may award grants to States or consortia of States to enhance the ability of such States or consortia of States to establish or operate a coordinated public health situational awareness system for regional or Statewide early detection of, rapid response to, and management of potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and public health emergencies, in collaboration with appropriate public health agencies, sentinel hospitals, clinical laboratories, pharmacies, poison control centers, other health care organizations, and animal health organizations within such States.

(2) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), the State or consortium of States shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance that the State or consortium of States will submit to the Secretary—

(A) reports of such data, information, and metrics as the Secretary may require;

(B) a report on the effectiveness of the systems funded under the grant; and

(C) a description of the manner in which grant funds will be used to enhance the timelines and comprehensiveness of efforts to detect, respond to, and manage potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and public health emergencies.

(3) Use of funds

A State or consortium of States that receives an award under this subsection—

(A) shall establish, enhance, or operate a coordinated public health situational awareness system for regional or Statewide early detection of, rapid response to, and management of potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and public health emergencies;

(B) may award grants or contracts to entities described in paragraph (1) within or serving such State to assist such entities in improving the operation of information technology systems, facilitating the secure exchange of data and information, and training personnel to enhance the operation of the system described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) may conduct a pilot program for the development of multi-State telehealth network test beds that build on, enhance, and securely link existing State and local telehealth programs to prepare for, monitor, respond to, and manage the events of public health emergencies, facilitate coordination and communication among medical, public health, and emergency response agencies, and provide medical services through telehealth initiatives within the States that are involved in such a multi-State telehealth network test bed.

(4) Limitation

Information technology systems acquired or implemented using grants awarded under this section must be compliant with—

(A) interoperability and other technological standards, as determined by the Secretary; and

(B) data collection and reporting requirements for the network described in subsection (d).

(5) Independent evaluation

Not later than 4 years after December 19, 2006, the Government Accountability Office shall conduct an independent evaluation, and submit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the activities conducted under this subsection and subsection (d).

(f) Telehealth enhancements for emergency response

(1) Evaluation

The Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

(A) conduct an inventory of telehealth initiatives in existence on December 19, 2006, including—

(i) the specific location of network components;

(ii) the medical, technological, and communications capabilities of such components;

(iii) the functionality of such components; and

(iv) the capacity and ability of such components to handle increased volume during the response to a public health emergency;

(B) identify methods to expand and interconnect the regional health information networks funded by the Secretary, the State and regional broadband networks funded through the rural health care support mechanism pilot program funded by the Federal Communications Commission, and other telehealth networks;

(C) evaluate ways to prepare for, monitor, respond rapidly to, or manage the events of,

a public health emergency through the enhanced use of telehealth technologies, including mechanisms for payment or reimbursement for use of such technologies and personnel during public health emergencies;

(D) identify methods for reducing legal barriers that deter health care professionals from providing telemedicine services, such as by utilizing State emergency health care professional credentialing verification systems, encouraging States to establish and implement mechanisms to improve interstate medical licensure cooperation, facilitating the exchange of information among States regarding investigations and adverse actions, and encouraging States to waive the application of licensing requirements during a public health emergency;

(E) evaluate ways to integrate the practice of telemedicine within the National Disaster Medical System; and

(F) promote greater coordination among existing Federal interagency telemedicine and health information technology initiatives.

(2) Report

Not later than 12 months after December 19, 2006, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives regarding the findings and recommendations pursuant to subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

(g) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, such sums as may be necessary in each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, §319D, as added Pub. L. 106-505, title I, §102, Nov. 13, 2000, 114 Stat. 2318; amended Pub. L. 107-188, title I, §103, June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 603; Pub. L. 109-417, title II, §§202, 204(b)(2), Dec. 19, 2006, 120 Stat. 2845, 2851.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 109-417, §202(1), inserted “domestically and abroad” after “public health threats”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 109-417, §204(b)(2), struck out “, taking into account evaluations under section 247d-2(a) of this title,” after “The Secretary” in introductory provisions.

Subsecs. (d) to (g). Pub. L. 109-417, §202(2), added subsecs. (d) to (g).

2002—Pub. L. 107-188 reenacted section catchline without change and amended text generally, substituting detailed provisions relating to facilities, capacities, and national communications and surveillance networks for provisions relating to findings of need for secure and modern facilities.

§ 247d-5. Combating antimicrobial resistance

(a) Task force

(1) In general

The Secretary shall establish an Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and coordinate Federal programs relating to

antimicrobial resistance. The Secretary may appoint or select a committee, or other organization in existence as of November 13, 2000, to serve as such a task force, if such committee, or other organization meets the requirements of this section.

(2) Members of task force

The task force described in paragraph (1) shall be composed of representatives from such Federal agencies, and shall seek input from public health constituencies, manufacturers, veterinary and medical professional societies and others, as determined to be necessary by the Secretary, to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to address the public health threat of antimicrobial resistance.

(3) Agenda

(A) In general

The task force described in paragraph (1) shall consider factors the Secretary considers appropriate, including—

- (i) public health factors contributing to increasing antimicrobial resistance;
- (ii) public health needs to detect and monitor antimicrobial resistance;
- (iii) detection, prevention, and control strategies for resistant pathogens;
- (iv) the need for improved information and data collection;
- (v) the assessment of the risk imposed by pathogens presenting a threat to the public health; and
- (vi) any other issues which the Secretary determines are relevant to antimicrobial resistance.

(B) Detection and control

The Secretary, in consultation with the task force described in paragraph (1) and State and local public health officials, shall—

- (i) develop, improve, coordinate or enhance participation in a surveillance plan to detect and monitor emerging antimicrobial resistance; and
- (ii) develop, improve, coordinate or enhance participation in an integrated information system to assimilate, analyze, and exchange antimicrobial resistance data between public health departments.

(4) Meetings

The task force described under paragraph (1) shall convene not less than twice a year, or more frequently as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) Research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and diagnostics

The Secretary and the Director of Agricultural Research Services, consistent with the recommendations of the task force established under subsection (a) of this section, shall directly or through awards of grants or cooperative agreements to public or private entities provide for the conduct of research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies in the health sciences that are related to—

- (1) the development of new therapeutics, including vaccines and antimicrobials, against resistant pathogens;