



Grants Policy Bulletin

Notification of the Availability for Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal and Local Personnel During a Declared Public Health Emergency

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Related Bulletins: None

Issued by: Office of Federal Assistance Management (OFAM), Division of Grants Policy (DGP)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy bulletin is to make Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) award recipients aware of Section 201 of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013 (PAHPRA), which could potentially impact grant activities should a federal public health emergency be declared under section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act. This policy bulletin provides a description of the availability of this authority and resources that provide further guidance from the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

Background:

Historically, state, tribal and local public health personnel who are funded by the PHS Act were not authorized to work outside of the scope of the funded grant or cooperative agreement program. However, PAHPRA provides the ability for states and tribal organizations to reassign personnel temporarily during public health emergencies, to provide flexibility in responding to a public health emergency.

Section 201 of the PAHPRA, Public Law 113-5, amends section 319 of the PHS Act to provide the Secretary of HHS with discretion to authorize the temporary reassignment of state, tribal, and local personnel during a declared federal public health emergency upon request by a state or tribal organization. The request for temporary authorization must be from the governor of a state, or the tribal organization, or their authorized designee. The temporary reassignment provision is applicable to state, tribal, and local public health department or agency personnel whose positions are funded in full or part, under PHS programs, and allows such personnel to immediately respond to the public health emergency in the affected jurisdiction. Funds provided under applicable HRSA awards may be used to support personnel who are temporarily reassigned in accordance with PHS section 319(e).

Any reassignment under PAHPRA must be voluntary. The locations for reassignment must be covered under the public health emergency and any reassignment over 30 days must be reauthorized. No HHS contract, grant or cooperative agreement can be conditioned on the requirement that eligible personnel be required to accept temporary reassignment. This authority terminates September 30, 2018.

Resources:

HRSA federal assistance recipients are encouraged to read the HHS Office of Assistance Secretary and Preparedness and Response (ASPR) *Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal and Local Personnel During a Public Health Emergency Declared by the HHS Secretary*. The ASPR guidance provides information on the process by which a state or tribal organization may request the temporary assignment of state, local and tribal personnel funded by the PHS Act, as well as associated reporting requirements should a request be approved by HHS.

HHS Public Health Emergency website:

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/pahpa/section201/Pages/default.aspx>

Guidance for Temporary Reassignment of State, Tribal and Local Personnel During a Public Health Emergency full announcement:

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/pahpa/section201/Documents/section319e-guidance.pdf>

If the governor of the state or tribal organization has authorized a “designee” a copy of the designation must be submitted with each request, a template is available at:

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/legal/pahpa/section201/Documents/aspr-temp-assignmt-request.pdf>

Inquiries

Inquiries regarding this notice can be directed to:

Health Resources & Services Administration

Office of Federal Assistance Management

Division of Grants Policy

Email: DGP@HRSA.gov

Telephone: 301-443-2837

Inquiries regarding the PAHPRA, and the ASFR guidance should be directed to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

TemporaryReassignment@hhs.gov