Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Cooperative Agreement Program

Program Description

- RRTs are multi-agency, multi-disciplinary teams that operate using Incident Command System (ICS)/National Incident Management System (NIMS) principles and a Unified Command structure to respond to human and animal food emergencies.
- Started in 2008, the RRT program has grown to include 24 states, four of which participate in a voluntary capacity outside of the funded cooperative agreement program.
- The RRT program uses a mentorship model, where established RRTs take on a mentorship role for one or more new RRTs just beginning development.

Intended Outcomes

- Minimize the time between agency notification of a human or animal food contamination event and implementation of effective control measures. To accomplish this, RRTs develop and maintain processes to:
- Prepare for and effectively respond to foodborne illness outbreaks and other food emergencies.
- Enhance intra-agency and inter-agency collaboration and communication.
- Jointly train and exercise staff to be ready to respond to events when they occur.
- Identify preventive practices to reduce foodborne illness and injury.
- Establish national best practices and tools that can be shared with other states to improve their response to food emergencies.

Program Metrics

- Current program funding (Flexible Funding Model RRT Development & Maintenance Tracks): $5.1M
- Current number of awards: 21
RRT Awardees (FY2022)

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