

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



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Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

OPHPR-2023-011

TO: MRC Chapter Leads

DATE: June 12, 2023

FROM: Erin McDermott
Health Program Supervisor

SUBJECT: MRC-STTRONG Award

On May 1, 2023, the Connecticut Department of Public Health Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response applied for funding through the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response's (ASPR's) Notice of Funding Opportunity, entitled the *MRC STTRONG Grant*. The application reviewers noted that the application was well-defined, described several advancements made over the past few years, and provided a detailed overview of our intention to support MRC through branding, recruiting, and training efforts. The reviewers also noted weaknesses, notably in sustainability once the funding was no longer available; we were relying heavily on contractors and marketing firms to develop materials.

ASPR received many applications and funded 33 states and territories. Unfortunately, Connecticut's application was not awarded. Although we are disappointed, we believe that the funding opportunity allowed us to highlight that Connecticut's Medical Reserve Corps volunteer system is strong, and we have several systems and processes in place that many jurisdictions have yet to establish – liability protections, standard operating procedures for activations, a volunteer management platform that is compliant with the Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, and a statewide Strategic Plan. We are confident that we can further develop these systems and processes in the upcoming year(s) to advance the MRC system in our state.

If additional funding opportunities are made available, we will make every effort to obtain such funding to support the valuable work of our partners. Thank you.

c: Francesca Provenzano, MPH, RS, Chief
Makayla Andrews, MRC Coordinator, HPA 1



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