

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supported the Advanced Practice Centers (APC) from 1999 to 2012. The APC has been a credible source for free public health preparedness products that can be easily implemented by any local health department (LHD), as the products were created *by* LHDs *for* LHDs. Today, there is a legacy of more than 100 APC Products that build capacity, saving health departments time, resources and money by providing proven solutions and world class ideas that are ready for implementation.

CASE STUDY

The San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Practice Center is a partnership between the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the UC Berkeley Center for Infectious Diseases and Emergency Readiness. It has expertise in infectious disease emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

EXEMPLARY APC PRODUCT

Infectious Disease Emergency Response (IDER) Toolkit

<http://apc.naccho.org/Products/APC20102190/Pages/Overview.aspx>

Developed in 2010 by the San Francisco Bay Area APC, the *IDER Toolkit* is for local health department staff and others involved in planning and preparing for infectious disease emergencies. The toolkit integrates key elements of communicable disease control and prevention with emergency management principles, and provides a customizable, ready-to-go infectious disease emergency response plan via a variety of functional forms and templates. In all, the product includes forty core templates covering Incident Command System (ICS) command and control, branches, units and 178 job action sheet templates. Whether a local health department utilizes the entire toolkit, or simply supplements an existing plan with specific items, the *IDER Toolkit* contains materials that are useful and appropriate for all types of local health departments.

Notable Feature: The *IDER Toolkit* is comprehensive, yet scalable. While the forty core templates and 178 job action sheet templates provide a complete solution, they are well organized by ICS unit and include electronic search functions that make it easy for end-users to identify and use the elements they need.

PHEP Capabilities Supported by this APC Product:

- Capability 2: Community Recovery
- Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination
- Capability 6: Information Sharing
- Capability 8: Medical Countermeasure Dispensing
- Capability 13: Public Health Surveillance and Epidemiological Investigation



THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTER



APC PRODUCT IN PRACTICE

From December 2010 to July of 2011, the **Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)** worked with the San Francisco Bay Area APC to implement the *IDER Toolkit*. In that time, SNHD achieved its objective of developing a NIMS-compliant infectious disease emergency response plan. Patricia Rowley, Office of Epidemiology Manager, spearheaded the project for SNHD which serves 1.9 million residents in the Las Vegas area and has more than 500 employees.



PROVIDED A HIGH QUALITY SOLUTION

Ms. Rowley shared that, “One of the biggest challenges in completing any comprehensive plan with multiple authors is maintaining a consistent writing style. The templates in the *IDER Toolkit* assured consistency, resulting in a very professional looking final product for SNHD.”



SAVED TIME

“The *IDER Toolkit* templates helped SNHD achieve its goal of having a NIMS-compliant plan within a very short timeframe,” said Ms. Rowley.



SAVED RESOURCES

Ms. Rowley confirmed, “No additional investments beyond staff participation were required.”



INCLUDED CONSULTATIVE SUPPORT FROM APC STAFF

“The San Francisco APC staff was always responsive to requests for assistance or more information. Their experience and expertise were essential to completing our plan in a short timeframe. Excellent customer service!” said Ms. Rowley.



ACHIEVED RESULTS

All forty of the toolkit’s core templates were examined for inclusion in SNHD’s *IDER* plan. In total, thirty-five of the *IDER Toolkit*’s forty templates were found to be relevant to the functions SNHD engages in, and were adopted into SNHD’s *IDER* plan. Since the July 2011 launch of SNHD’s plan, the project team has worked to customize the appropriate job action sheets, and has even used the San Francisco APC templates as models to develop new ones.

“Whenever you’re thinking about embarking on a tough project, sometimes the most overwhelming part is getting started. Having the *IDER Toolkit* templates and the backing of the San Francisco APC staff significantly reduced my anxiety and gave me full confidence that the project would be successful,” said Ms. Rowley.