

**July 23, 2024, House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Questions for the Record  
Responses**

**Dr. Henry Walke, Office of Readiness and Response**

**The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers**

**1. What is your Office's annual budget?**

In FY24, CDC's Office of Readiness and Response (ORR) enacted program level is \$938.2 million.

**a. How much of this funding supports grants, cooperative agreements, or other external activities and partners, versus supporting internal CDC work and activities?**

Broadly, approximately 80% of CDC's domestically focused funding is spent in extramural activities – these are resources are used in our communities to help protect health at the local level. Variability among centers depends on intramural costs, particularly support for laboratories and other core capabilities, which are resource intensive. For CDC's ORR, 84% – a majority – of the funding is used to support extramural activities. support additional valuable programmatic components, including the public health subject matter expertise, guidance development, technical assistance, and important coordination, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based practices as essential components to the success of these programs.

CDC continues to prioritize core public health capabilities of data, surveillance, lab, workforce, and domestic and global preparedness. These foundational components are necessary to protect health and improve lives; all of CDC's work and our support for jurisdictional partners – whether on influenza, cancer, injury prevention, or antimicrobial resistance – is strengthened when these core capabilities are strengthened.

**2. How many staff does your Office employ in total?**

CDC's ORR employed 484 Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) in Fiscal Year 2024.

**a. How many of your staff could be immediately deployed in a crisis?**

As a lesson learned from COVID, CDC created the CDCReady Responder program within CDC's ORR, to enable our multidisciplinary workforce to train before a public health event and be ready to respond when and where needed. CDC staff with diverse expertise throughout the agency are enrolled in the program as responders with specific skill sets (e.g. epidemiology, data, communications) so they are ready to contribute to specific needs during a large response such as COVID 19, or to a new health threat that comes our way. So far, 2,750 staff from across the agency have enrolled in the CDCReady Responder program. The ability to surge staff and to respond faster than ever before represents a significant improvement over how CDC operated prior to COVID and is a key example of how CDC is breaking down silos, effectively leveraging our public health workforce, and prioritizing readiness and response. In addition, as part of the President's Budget, CDC requested authority to create additional flexibility to quickly assign or deploy people from across the agency to quickly respond to emerging public health challenges.

ORR is actively working to enroll appropriate staff from across the agency to ensure that CDC is ready to respond to emergencies of any scope and scale.

**The Honorable Dan Crenshaw**

1. **Dr. Walke, thank you for being here and for your work on operations. What percent of CDC staff are clinical versus public health practitioners, and is there a requirement for your clinical staff to keep licensure and continue to see patients?**

With few exceptions (such as internally facing occupational health clinicians), CDC does not provide direct clinical services. Some of CDC's public health experts require clinical licensure not for direct clinical service roles, but relevant public health roles at CDC. For example, CDC advises on treatment guidelines for emerging infections. Nearly 700 FTEs and Commissioned Corps at CDC are in positions that require licensure (e.g. MD, pharmacist, nurses) and are required to maintain those licenses for their public health focused role. CDC staff who provide clinical services in order to maintain licensure submit a request to the CDC Ethics and Integrity Office to ensure compliance with all applicable ethics rules.

**The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.**

1. **The CDC does not have a mission or purpose defined in statute. If Congress were to go down the path of authorizing the CDC overall, we would also want to authorize each of your Centers and Offices. What would your mission be? Succinctly in 2-3 sentences, please.**

CDC works 24/7 to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease, improves health and saves lives, and supports communities and citizens to do the same. CDC's ORR protects health and saves lives by preparing for and responding to public health threats using our emergency management knowledge to work hand-in-hand with agency experts in immunization, environmental health, emerging diseases, occupational safety and health, and injury prevention and control. Our staff work alongside our CDC peers, other federal partners, state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments, and private sector partners to advance the nation's preparedness and response for public health emergencies and threats, and to continuously monitor for risks to the health of communities and the nation.