

Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Operations and Readiness Act

The U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Operations and Readiness (PHS COR) Act authorizes dedicated annual funding to the PHS Commissioned Corps. The PHS is the only uniformed service without a budget line item dedicated to service operations and maintenance. The PHS COR Act demonstrates our commitment to public health, national security, and the well-being of our communities.

The increasing demand for commissioned officers to serve underserved and vulnerable populations, in often hard-to-fill and/or hazardous duty assignments, along with demands for national and global deployments require investments in the PHS to preserve national public health and national security during domestic or global public health emergencies. Dedicated funding is necessary to ensure a highly-trained, always-ready, fully-deployable national public health service.

The COR Act authorizes funding in alignment with the service's ongoing modernization efforts to:

- Enhance Commissioned Corps Headquarters processes and systems;
- Improve data management practices, information technology systems, and communication platforms.
- Maximize force management, operational capacity, and mission readiness of the Regular Corps, the Public Health Emergency Response Strike Teams, and Ready Reserve;
- Recruit and retain qualified professionals suited to serving underserved and vulnerable communities;
 - Recruitment
 - Enhance onboarding timelines, provide officer placements to align with agency needs, incentivize recruiters and recruits.
 - Retainment
 - Expand training opportunities, provide credentialing support for high demand skill sets, and enrich leadership and research potential.
- Improve deployment processes and efficiencies, and prepare mission teams to executive routine and emergent public health events.
- Establish a legislative liaison office.

The increasing frequency and severity of public health emergencies makes our nation more vulnerable to potential threats. The PHS plays a critical role in preserving national public health and national security during domestic or global public health emergencies. PHS is the only uniformed service in the world solely dedicated to public health. Establishing a budget line item for service operations and readiness is vital to ensure a fully-deployable national public health asset.