

BP5 MRC Focus Area Development

Example & Reminders When Completing the RST

May 2023

What is a
Focus Area?

A focus area can be a broad topic, theme or priority that you wish to work on this year.

BP5 MRC Deliverables

Identify at least 3 focus areas to strengthen the MRC unit and build capacity to respond as outlined in the RST

- Developing, updating and/or exercising MRC unit plans
- Addressing responder health and safety through unit resources (plans, trainings, etc.)
- Establishing community partnerships and/or better engaging local health depts
- Diversifying MRC volunteers to build unit capabilities
- Supporting activities in underserved areas/populations (e.g., medically underserved areas, rural communities)
- Supporting activities to address the needs of at-risk individuals
- Other activities as determined by the unit

Early Actions

Meet regionally with MRC Advisory Group (other units in region)

- Review any gaps in MRC coverage
- Determine approach – regional budget and plan?
- Determine funding formula for region
- Determine other opportunities for regional collaboration
- Name MRC Steering Committee members for BP5

Meet with other partners/stakeholders

- Get feedback on gaps in volunteer needs (i.e., sheltering support)
- Incorporate MRC volunteers into plans (where/when applicable)

How to Develop a Focus Area

Resources

- Your Unit's Strategic Plan
- After-Action Reports (AARs)
- Community Health Assessment, like an HVA
- [MA Capacity Gap Analysis](#) (2019)
- Demographics of current Volunteers as they relate to community need
- Communications/conversations with partners
- [MRC Core Competencies Framework](#)
- [MRC Core Competencies Learning Paths and Training Plan](#)

Focus Area Example

- **Focus Area:** Enhance community partnerships between an MRC unit and other organizations
- **Description:** Based on the MRC unit's experiences driven by the recent covid response regarding the needs and utilization of volunteers within healthcare facilities during emergencies, the unit will work to build brand awareness promoting the use of the MRC volunteers and aim to establish formal relationships (MOUs, processes) between community organizations and the MRC host agency
- **Core Competencies Associated (check all that apply in RST):**
 - 2.0 – Expected Roles in an emergency; 4.0 – Effective Communication; 6.0 – Surge Capacity Assets;
- **Associated Deliverables (multiple choice question in RST):**
 - ID at least 3 focus areas; collaborate with EP partners

Quarterly Reporting

- **MRC Q1 Update:**
 - The unit coordinator met with personnel from the local community health center (CHC) to identify the barriers and opportunities for quickly onboarding volunteers in an emergency on 10/2;
 - The unit fact sheet was updated, printed and shared with community partners at an HMCC stakeholder meeting including hospitals, community health centers, the Smithtown Senior Center and Smithtown Emergency Management;
 - Hosted a meeting with the senior center on 9/25 to provide an overview of the unit and available resources.
 - Hosted virtual orientation event on 9/12, which reviewed roles/responsibilities when volunteering in a healthcare facility. 10 volunteers attended.

Reminders

Programmatic priorities must align with line items within a unit's budget.

Focus areas should not be defined by deliverables.

Focus Areas can be broad, but quarterly updates should be specific.

Focus Areas can be added (leave room!) if needed during BP.

Use AARs, experiences, assessments, gaps and struggles to determine priorities.

Check with your HMCC about due dates!!

Questions

