



**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

## **CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**Eric Friedlander**  
SECRETARY

275 East Main Street, 5W-A  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621  
Phone: (502) 564-7042  
Fax: (502) 564-7091

**Statewide News Release**

**Media Contact:**

**Susan Dunlap**

502.226.0245

[susan.dunlap@ky.gov](mailto:susan.dunlap@ky.gov)

### **Gov. Beshear Announces More Than \$2 Million To Support Emergency Preparedness Efforts**

*Funds aim to grow emergency response network, covering all 120 counties*

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 28, 2023)** – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced \$2.25 million will go to supporting the expansion and restructuring of the Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps to enhance emergency response and proactively protect Kentuckians in all 120 counties.

Kentucky’s corps is comprised of medical and non-medical personnel who volunteer their time and expertise to supplement existing public health resources during emergencies and times of community need.

“These volunteers have been crucial in aiding with disaster responses, and their invaluable impact has especially been felt during recent years,” said **Gov. Beshear**. “We have faced unimaginable challenges such as natural disasters, a once-in-a-century global pandemic and so much more. With this funding, the administration will be able to provide direct financial support, technical assistance, resources and training to help our regional units and strengthen communities.”

Currently, the Medical Reserve Corps is comprised of 29 locally housed units with volunteers across 78 counties. The pandemic and recent severe weather events have highlighted the need to restructure the program to strengthen recruitment and engagement in emergency preparedness and response for all 120 counties.

“The regionalization of the Medical Reserve Corps program will provide a more robust and equitable coverage of volunteers across our commonwealth and will enhance the quantity and quality of partnerships with key stakeholders we already partner with, such as hospitals, universities and local health departments,” said **Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Eric Friedlander**.



Restructuring plans include consolidating local Medical Reserve Corps units into eight regionalized units that will be housed under Kentucky's Healthcare Coalitions within the preparedness branch of the state's Department for Public Health.

Of the 33 states and jurisdictions recently [granted awards](#) through the American Rescue Plan Act to strengthen the Medical Reserve Corps network across the country, Kentucky received the fourth-highest amount for any state or territory.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteers supported emergency shelter operations following the storms and tornadoes in December 2021 in Western Kentucky, the flooding, mudslides and landslides in Eastern Kentucky last July and during extreme weather events, such as the temperature plunge that occurred last December.

Volunteers also assisted with testing and vaccine distribution during the pandemic. They also provide medical support and first aid at large public gatherings such as the Kentucky Derby. To learn more about Kentucky's Medical Reserve Corps program, click [here](#).

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