Abstract

The Municipality of Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services (MOA DHHS) requested an assessment of the viability and effectiveness of becoming a Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) community. PPHR has been a public health emergency management program aimed at increasing a community’s readiness to respond. Three evaluation methods were utilized; key informant interviews of MOA DHHS staff, online survey of existing PPHR communities, and an analysis of MOA DHHS plans and policies compared to PPHR requirements. Based on the three evaluation methods, a recommendation was made to MOA DHHS to become a PPHR community, including a few issues to address prior to PPHR recognition. Considerations included forming a PPHR planning group, reprioritizing staff tasking, utilizing PPHR criteria requirement chart, and setting a timeline. By becoming a PPHR community, MOA DHHS has the potential to improve response capabilities for the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.