

HPP IN OHIO

What Congress Is at Risk of Losing

The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) is the federal foundation for healthcare readiness, connecting hospitals, public health, emergency management, EMS, and community partners through Ohio and its seven regional healthcare coalitions.

THE FY2027 FUNDING PICTURE

The House-reported FY2027 LHHS bill, H.R. 9260, would provide about \$70.1 million for HPP and eliminate formula grants. This is a 77% reduction in funding from FY 2026. Full-year FY2027 LHHS appropriations have not been enacted; a continuing resolution currently funds LHHS through December 11, 2026.

Why HPP matters to Ohio

HPP sustains the regional infrastructure partners use to plan, communicate, exercise, coordinate scarce resources, and learn from emergencies. Ohio's Department of Health receives the statutory formula funding; seven healthcare coalitions support preparedness statewide.

36	24/7/365	19	15
Ohio counties served by COTS emergency preparedness & response coalitions	Healthcare Incident Liaison availability operated by COTS to assist regional partners	Hospital emergency managers in COTS Emergency Management Strike Team	Large-scale no-notice events in 2025

COTS provides a neutral forum where healthcare, emergency response, and community partners across 36 counties plan, communicate, and respond together—capacity no single organization can sustain alone.

COTS footprint — 36 counties

Athens	Delaware	Gallia	Hocking	Lawrence	Marion	Morrow	Pickaway	Union
Belmont	Fairfield	Guernsey	Jackson	Licking	Meigs	Muskingum	Pike	Vinton
Coshocton	Fayette	Hardin	Jefferson	Logan	Monroe	Noble	Ross	Washington
Crawford	Franklin	Harrison	Knox	Madison	Morgan	Perry	Scioto	Wyandot

What HPP makes possible

- **Regional coordination:** shared plans, relationships, and communication pathways that can be activated across organizations and jurisdictions.
- **24/7 situational awareness:** COTS's Healthcare Incident Liaison and regional coordination support help partners identify needs and connect resources.
- **Exercises and readiness:** no-notice events, drills, and after-action learning turn plans into practiced capabilities.
- **Emergency management capacity:** a regional Emergency Management Strike Team brings hospital emergency managers together to strengthen response.
- **Education and shared learning:** in 2025, COTS trained over 2,100 professionals in emergency/trauma care and preparedness.

Why the funding structure matters

HPP's value is sustained regional infrastructure—not one-time grants to individual organizations. Eliminating formula grants could weaken consistent coalition capacity across jurisdictions before, during, and after emergencies.

WHAT COTS IS ASKING CONGRESS TO CONSIDER

- Maintain HPP as a distinct federal preparedness program.
- Preserve formula grants supporting statewide and regional capacity.
- Provide sufficient FY2027 funding to sustain coalition infrastructure.
- Recognize coalitions as essential links among federal, state, regional, and local partners.

Sources: U.S. House H.R. 9260 (reported June 11, 2026); Congressional Research Service, Status of FY2027 LHHS Appropriations (September 2026); COTS, Who We Are and coalition pages. Current as of September 2026.