

Info-Aid—Informatics Assistance

Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program (PHIFP)

What is an Info-Aid?

An Informatics Aid (Info-Aid) is a mechanism that allows PHIFP fellows—CDC’s data detectives—to provide short-term technical assistance in the event of an urgent public health informatics need.

Who may request an Info-Aid?

The following agencies may request an Info-Aid:

- CDC/ATSDR and other federal agencies
- State and local health departments and public health agencies
- International health organizations
- Non-profit public health entities

Why request an Info-Aid?

Informatics is critical as public health agencies rely on robust information systems for core functions and services. Info-Aids can provide:

- Access to informatics expertise and technical support during public health emergencies
- Strategic planning and informatics evaluation to design and develop, or overall improve public health information systems
- Support of country-level health information systems for disease surveillance and outbreak response

What are examples of Info-Aids?

Some examples of previous Info-Aid activities include:

- Designing and developing an information system to support a CDC outbreak investigation of HIV clusters by standardizing data collected from multiple sources and developing a dashboard to generate a live information feed
- Facilitating the implementation and adoption of a health information system framework to standardize and integrate information systems across Kenya
- Developing software requirements for a field training program’s management information system to monitor and evaluate the impact of the program
- Establishing information systems for emergency operations to enhance acute watery diarrhea surveillance in Ethiopia

How is an Info-Aid request initiated?

The requesting agency should contact PHIFP@cdc.gov to request an Info-Aid. PHIFP program staff will provide additional details about the process.

How long will an Info-Aid last?

Typically, an Info-Aid lasts between 120-160 hours (or can be extended if needed) depending on the complexity of the problem. After an Info-Aid, the requesting agency may continue collaboration for report writing, presentation, and follow-up projects.



PHIFP fellow and CDC Cairo office data manager collaborate on data management workflows for the International Emerging Infections Program. Cairo, Egypt.

Request an Info-Aid

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**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology,
and Laboratory Services