

HHS emPOWER Program

emPOWERing Communities, Saving Lives

The HHS emPOWER Program (emPOWER) is a mission-essential program within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) that, in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), helps communities protect the health of more than 4.4 million Medicare beneficiaries who live independently and rely on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment and devices and essential health care services.

Individuals with Access and Functional Needs May Be At-Risk During an Emergency

Advances in technology and health care services have better enabled at-risk individuals (e.g., chronically ill, older adults) to live independently in their personal homes. To do so, millions of these individuals rely on life-maintaining durable medical and assistive equipment and devices that require electricity to operate (e.g., ventilators), as well as certain health care services, such as outpatient facility dialysis and home health care services.

Local incidents to large scale natural disasters, infrastructure failures, and infectious disease outbreaks can rapidly thrust these at-risk individuals into life-threatening situations, leading many to overwhelm emergency medical services, hospitals, or shelters when seeking access to care or power sources. Others may shelter in place due to a lack of resources, transportation, or assistance, putting their lives in danger.

What the HHS emPOWER Program Provides Communities

The HHS emPOWER Program provides public health and medical response partners across the country with timely, accurate information on at-risk populations to help them better anticipate, plan for, and respond to the needs of individuals in their communities who have access and functional needs and may need assistance. The HHS emPOWER Program includes an expanding set of dynamic data, mapping and artificial intelligence (AI) tools, training, and resources:

Map, REST Service, and emPOWER AI

Dataset Tools

Program Training and Resources



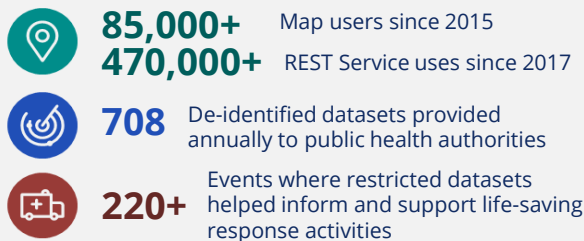
The HHS emPOWER Program's public map, [HHS emPOWER Map](#), [Representational State Transfer \(REST\) Service](#), and

voice-activated AI tool, [emPOWER AI](#), provide de-identified data on at-risk populations. The HHS emPOWER Program also provides state, territory, and certain major metropolitan area public health authorities (PHA) with more granular data through restricted, [de-identified datasets](#) to advance emergency preparedness activities and readiness prior to a disaster. In the event of a disaster, a PHA who meets specific requirements may request an official disclosure of a secure, [restricted dataset](#) with more detailed information to support life-saving response outreach and recovery public health activities.

How the HHS emPOWER Program is Helping

PHAs, community partners, and others nationwide use emPOWER data and tools to strengthen emergency preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation, and resilience activities. For example, public health officials and emergency managers may use emPOWER tools to identify and address gaps in shelter resources, plan evacuation routes and resources, and conduct targeted outreach calls and home wellness checks to at-risk individuals who may be adversely impacted.

HHS emPOWER Program: By the Numbers



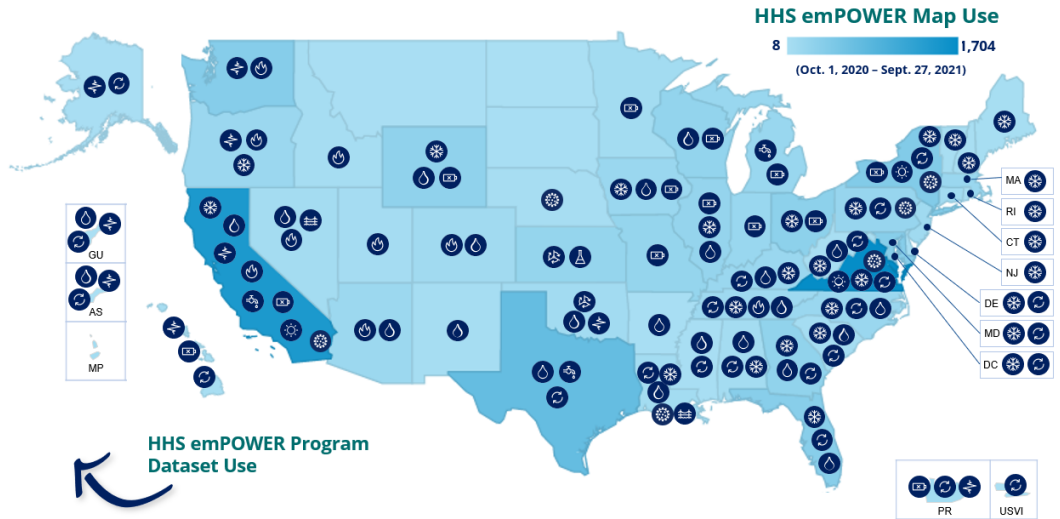
emPOWER tools are versatile and have been used across a range of critical events that include, but are not limited to, wildfires, hurricanes, winter storms, power outages, critical infrastructure failures, and infectious disease outbreaks. For more information on the HHS emPOWER Program's impact, review the next page or visit the [HHS emPOWER Program Platform](#) for more success stories.

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The HHS emPOWER Program's Impact

Since 2013, emPOWER tools have been used in all 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia, enabling communities to strengthen emergency preparedness and take action to protect individuals with access and functional needs throughout an incident, emergency, or disaster, including the following events:

-  Chemical Spill
-  Earthquake
-  Extreme Heat
-  Flood
-  Hurricane/ Tropical Storm
-  Infectious Disease
-  Infrastructure Failure
-  Severe Power Outage
-  Tornado
-  Water Emergency
-  Wildfire
-  Winter Storm



Several PHAs and their partners have used one or more of the HHS emPOWER Program tools for emergency preparedness and response activities. For example:

CALIFORNIA: Wildfires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs

CA counties used secure, restricted datasets to conduct life-saving outreach to hundreds of individuals, and over 200 individuals used the emPOWER Map to support responses as 3 million houses faced outages in a single week.

PENNSYLVANIA: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Philadelphia County used a secure, restricted dataset to conduct a targeted response outreach campaign to 13,000 emPOWER at-risk individuals and home health agencies to provide health, safety, and service information to reduce exposure and protect health.

NEW YORK: Windstorms and Power Outages

Broome County, NY, leveraged the emPOWER Map and a secure, restricted dataset to identify and conduct outreach to 58 at-risk residents without power and make power restoration decisions during an outage caused by a severe windstorm.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS: Life-Saving Evacuations

Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, ASPR used a secure, restricted dataset to rapidly identify, locate, and conduct life-saving evacuations of over 200 dialysis-dependent at-risk individuals in the USVI.

Evolving emPOWER to Meet Stakeholder Needs

emPOWER expands the reach and accessibility of its tools through targeted partner engagement and educational opportunities. The program also regularly adds new, innovative technology, tools, and capabilities that can help partners better protect the health of individuals with access and functional needs in their communities.

Building Capacity and Expanding emPOWER

In 2020, the HHS emPOWER Program launched a new, publicly-accessible online platform, providing new educational and training materials and direct links to emPOWER tools and resources to help partners rapidly adopt, understand, and use emPOWER data and tools to advance readiness in their communities. Additionally, through the "emPOWERing State Medicaid and CHIP Data Pilot," emPOWER provides resources, training, and technical assistance to participating state and territory PHAs to help them develop complementary emPOWER datasets using their Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) data. emPOWER has helped multiple states leverage

their state owned and operated Medicaid and CHIP data to help protect health and save the lives of at-risk adults and children with access and functional needs. At present, three states (North Carolina, Florida, Oregon) have completed the pilot, with two states (California, Nevada) in progress.

emPOWER COVID-19 At-Risk Data and Tools

emPOWER recently expanded to include a new COVID-19 At-Risk population, launching a suite of dataset, mapping, and dashboard tools, as well as trainings, and resources, to support state, territorial, and local public health COVID-19 response and community mitigation efforts. The new data leverages a peer-reviewed risk model, created between CMS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to assess all 62 million Medicare beneficiaries' individual risk for COVID-19 hospitalization and or death in any setting. emPOWER translates this data into readily meaningful, consumable, and actionable tools to support COVID-19 public health activities, better enabling PHAs to protect health, advance health equity, support vaccine and therapeutic planning, and mitigate health care system surge.

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