



KEY MESSAGES AND BACKGROUND

What is the Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness?

- The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness is a unique national initiative to better prepare business, government and nonprofit leaders to work effectively together during a public health or safety crisis.
- Through the Summit, leaders learn skills needed to act effectively in a crisis and build connections with other leaders with whom they can share information and resources in an emergency.

Why is the Meta-Leadership Summit important?

- The nation's response to events like Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 highlighted the urgent need for leaders to work collaboratively across public and private sectors to respond to disasters.
- The Meta-Leadership Summit will build a cadre of leaders who have a unique skill set and mindset critical for effectively mobilizing people, organizations and resources in an emergency.

Who hosts the Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness?

- The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness is an initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foundation, CDC, National Leadership Preparedness Initiative – Harvard School of Public Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Summit is presented by Harvard faculty.
- Local hosts for each Summit include the governor's or mayor's office, a corporation, and a large nonprofit/philanthropic organization.

Who participates in the Summit?

- Up to 200 leaders from business, government and nonprofit organizations attend each Meta-Leadership Summit. These include elected officials, state health officers/commissioners, state emergency management directors, corporate CEOs and COOs, continuity of operations directors, foundation presidents, communications directors, emergency operations senior staff members, state medical society directors, senior nonprofit disaster relief and faith-based organizational leaders and regional federal authorities.

What do participants learn about or do throughout the day?

Participants in the Summit:

- Evaluate their strengths and weaknesses as leaders
- Learn how and when to apply meta-leadership tools and techniques
- Connect with other leaders who can provide access to critical information, expertise and resources

- Begin to define ways in which a meta-leadership approach could enhance emergency preparedness and response efforts

What are the benefits of attending the Summit?

Through participation in the Summit, leaders:

- Learn to reach decisions in the face of uncertainty, fear and stress
- Practice skills and behaviors necessary for effective action in times of crisis
- Gain the confidence needed to lead up and across organizational lines
- Identify partnerships that can be leveraged before, during and after a crisis
- Become part of a network of individuals committed to enhancing community readiness for an emergency

Where have other Summits been held?

- Pilot Summits have been held in Columbus, GA; Wichita, KS; Denver, CO; Louisville, KY; and Princeton, NJ. Beginning in the fall of 2008, the program will be rolled out across the country to reach leaders in all 50 states.

What happens after the Summit?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has appointed an outcomes manager to work with state leaders to continue meta-leadership efforts begun at the Summits.
- Specific post-summit activities may include reconvening issue-focused groups to further define and solidify local cross-sector collaboration and assisting participants in building plans to ensure the continued practice of meta-leadership in emergency preparedness and response.

Have the Summits been evaluated? What are the results?

Post-summit online surveys have been completed for four of the five pilot Summits. Overall satisfaction with the Summits was high for all four pilots.

- 82 percent of respondents rated the overall quality of the Summits as “good” or “outstanding.”
- 84 percent of respondents said the Summit was a valuable use of time.
- 92 percent of respondents said they intend to practice what they learned from the Summit.

How is the Summit funded?

- The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness is supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for administrative costs.
- In lieu of a registration fee for summit participants, the CDC Foundation seeks funding from local, corporate, foundation, or other sponsors to cover the expenses associated with each summit, including meeting space rental, A/V equipment, food and beverage, and meeting materials.
- The CDC Foundation Advancement Office works directly with sponsors to coordinate all details of the sponsorship and ensure appropriate recognition and fulfillment.