



OFFICE OF EMERGENCY COORDINATION

Missouri emPOWER Request Fact Sheet

emPOWER Program Information

The HHS emPOWER Program aids states and local governments in locating individuals who live independently and rely on electricity-dependent durable medical and assistive equipment and devices, and/or essential health care services. Data is sourced from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which provides funding to covered individuals for related equipment and services.

De-identified Data: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides the State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) 'de-identified' data, that includes counts of power-dependent Medicare beneficiaries by city, county or zip code. These individuals are at risk for negative health outcomes during power outages. DHSS emPOWER Application is publicly available for planning purposes.

**De-identified
emPOWER data is
publicly available.**

**The information can
be sorted by city
and/or zip code to
gain numbers that
help with planning or
response efforts.**

Identified Data: Requests can be made for 'identified' emPOWER data in the event of an imminent or current incident, emergency, or disaster that may adversely impact health and necessitate potential response outreach activities. Identified data provides individual names and addresses for power-dependent Medicare beneficiaries. To request identified data contact drms@health.mo.gov or call DHSS Emergency Response Center (ERC) at 573-751-5152. The request can be made prior to the event occurring if the threat is imminent. Requests to HHS for the identified data must come from the state or territorial public health authority (DHSS). The process for receiving the data will take 3-4 hours. DHSS data custodian will assist the LPHA in receiving and using the data and ensure data is destroyed once the event has passed.

More information from HHS can be viewed at the HHS emPOWER Program site (<https://empowerprogram.hhs.gov/>).

Response Sequence & Data Request Procedure

Local Agencies

- Event occurs resulting in prolonged power outage or access limitations.
- Local Agency or Healthcare Coalition (HCC) contacts DHSS ERC.
- Local public health agencies (LPHAs) must be informed and included on communications as they will be the entity that initially receives identified data.

DHSS Emergency Response Center (ERC)

- ERC gathers situational information from locals to include: Event type and time of occurrence, geographic extent, population affected, healthcare facilities affected, contact information of local agency representative (Contact name, agency, phone number, email).
- ERC contacts the Office of Emergency Coordination Administrator and/or Emergency Response Center Manager and relays information.
- ERC arranges conference call with OEC staff and others as necessary.

Office of Emergency Coordination (OEC)

- Contact LPHA or other local requesting party for any missing details/updates. At this point, LPHA must be involved as they will be receiving and managing identified data.
- Notify Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Operations.
- Contact HHS ASPR via phone to initiate process.
- Complete the following non-signature forms, compose email describing situation, and send email with attachments to HHS ASPR.
 - #5 – Data Request Form
 - #6 – Secure Portal User Request Form
- Complete the following forms with appropriate signatures and submit via email to HHS ASPR.
 - #1 – HHS emPOWER PHA Cover Letter
 - #2 – HHS EmPOWER Program HIPAA Privacy Assertion
 - #3 – CMS R-0235 emPOWER Data Use Agreement (DUA)
 - #4 – HHS emPOWER Program CMS DUA Addendum
- CMS data contractor sends designated DHSS staff logon information (email with link and phone call with password) to secured data portal. DHSS designated staff will create own password and receive email confirmation email. DHSS designee will then receive additional password to allow downloading data file from secure portal.
- Require LPHA to sign DHSS Data Use Agreement.
- Share data with LPHA.
- Within 30 days, submit email to HHS ASPR certifying data has been destroyed. A 30 day extension can be requested.

MO DHSS is the Public Health Authority that must submit the information to HHS ASPR and ensure data is kept secure and then destroyed.

Local Public Health Agencies

- LPHA receives data and conducts outreach. Outreach should be conducted in coordination with local emergency management and first responders including EMS, fire departments, and/or law enforcement. Local emergency management and/or Power companies may also have information on electrically dependent individuals who have registered with them.
- Upon response completion, send email to DHSS OEC staff certifying data destruction.

Data Elements Included

Identified data includes the following data elements for covered individuals:

- Name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Age/Age Bracket
- Gender
- Race
- Medicare/Medicaid Eligibility
- Area Poverty Level
- Home Health Service Contact Information
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier Contact Information
- Most Recent Institutional Care Facility

Durable Medical Equipment Included:

- Cardiac Devices
- Ventilators
- At-Home Dialysis Machines
- Oxygen Concentrators
- IV Infusion Pumps
- Suction Pumps
- Enteral Feeding
- Motorized Wheelchairs and Scooters
- Electric Beds

Services Included:

- In-Facility Dialysis
- Oxygen Services
- Home Health
- At-Home Hospice