

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Information Technology Services (CITS)

The CDC Information Technology Support (CITS) contract provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with a vehicle for the ongoing acquisition of a broad array of data, information, information technology (IT) and information system support services. CITS supports the CDC enterprise and the Centers/Institutes/Offices (C/I/Os) IT initiatives and public health mission. The CITS workforce plays an important role in CDC's science mission by supporting epidemiological research with scientific data management, by providing complex analyses of surveillance and population data and by applying biostatistics to identify risk factors and support the development of intervention programs.

Specifically, Northrop Grumman works with CDC in the planning, development, operation and support of more than 200 information systems. Our work includes such significant contributions as supporting CDC's research, bioterrorism preparation and response, the Global AIDS program, chronic disease control IT initiatives and the Public Health Information Network (PHIN). Other examples include development of a new Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Web application for the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP), development of the Pre-Event Vaccination System (PVS) for Bioterrorism and development of the Hospital Information System for Global AIDS. We also integrate legacy systems to increase the interoperability of these systems and to facilitate data sharing. Northrop Grumman automates the collection of data from diverse sources; develops data standards, data warehouses, metadata registries and data models; and performs complex data analysis. Our tasking includes infrastructure support for servers, data centers and an information security program, including extensive policy and security analysis work across the C/I/Os in collaboration with the CDC Chief Information Officer and Information Systems Security Officer. In addition, the CDC has activated an Emergency Operations Center three times in the past few years: in response to anthrax, West Nile virus, and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. In all instances, CITS staff have partnered with CDC to prepare temporary facilities and to add resources to accomplish data collection, storage, processing, reporting and communications, both internally and with the public.

Our organization is structured to focus on maintaining a close working relationship with the CITS contracting officer and the co-project officers, which emphasizes efficient contract administration, timely reporting and meeting small business subcontracting goals. We proactively support the unique needs and desires of each Chief Information Officer (CIO), for both term and product task orders. Factors that contribute to management complexity include 45 tasks with 212 work orders, 700+ personnel in national and international locations, contractor-operated facilities, six small business subcontractors, and more than 20 additional companies providing specialized services and technologies. Technical complexity is evidenced by the broad range of labor categories (54, with varying skills), the wide array of service areas (39) in the information systems development life cycle combined with specialized workstation support, data entry/help desk/user support services and networks and systems management support. We maintain technical and scientific depth and agility to responsively carry out enterprise-level tasking.

The CDC's mission is life-critical. In many situations, immediate response and disciplined capabilities are put to the test in enabling the CDC to respond to emergencies, such as the anthrax and 9/11 incidents. To prepare for these situations, we have even established a strategic relationship with the Center for Innovation in Health Information Systems, which plays an important role in the planning and delivery of public health systems. We routinely draw on the Center's diverse staff for in-depth understanding of the real-world problems public health entities face in the development and political environment. The objective is to provide responsive, timely, high-quality, effective, innovative, efficient and cost-effective support services incorporating all appropriate technical and security requirements, government regulations, and professional standards, and using industry best practices.