

# EMERGENCY PARTNER CREDENTIALING SYSTEM (EPCS) For Private Sector Partners



## What is it?

In the event of a critical incident, maintaining citizen well-being is paramount. For such instances, Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) has initiated development of the Emergency Partner Credentialing System (EPCS) for private sector partners. This nationally-unique system provides state-issued documentation to eligible personnel of organizations aiding communities struck by disaster. OHS is working to ensure that the new EPCS gives you the empowerment to do what you do best when emergencies hit Ohio communities.

## What do you get?

With credentials through EPCS, personnel from private sector partners will be more easily able to aid communities during a critical incident. Unlike other states that use credentialing systems, Ohio's will be available at **no cost** to OP3 members and credentials will be verifiable by law enforcement through the LEADS system on-scene at an incident. This will allow for verification of the bearer prior to being permitted access to disaster scenes in order to help re-establish vital infrastructure.

## Why does it matter to you?

EPCS documentation is vetted through OHS and provided to OP3 member organizations. This is to help ensure their personnel the ability to cross emergency lines to deliver stockpile supplies and medication for people who are not able to get their own. There is no doubt that the EPCS will benefit you as an OP3 member, and certainly be a benefit to Ohioans.

## How do I get access?

Businesses may engage in EPCS by becoming a trusted partner with OHS through the OP3 program. Business owners will receive authorization to grant employees multi-emergency or emergency-specific credentials.

Credentials will be requested and distributed through the Communication and Information Management System (CIMS). CIMS is a web-based portal administered by OHS to allocate emergency personnel to communities in need of assistance.

*The system was fully implemented on January 1, 2016.*

