



Committee: PHED
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Gene Smith, Legislative Analyst
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected
Keywords: COVID, Economic development

AGENDA ITEM #6I
January 19, 2021
Introduction

SUBJECT

Special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget, Office of the County Executive, ConnectedDMV Contract, Global Pandemic Prevention Center, \$500,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Councilmember Riemer requests introduction of this special appropriation to help develop and advocate for a new global Pandemic Prevention Center in the County. The appropriation will support a contract with ConnectedDMV, a regional non-profit, to develop a scope of work and future operations of a global Pandemic Prevention Center within the region.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- A public hearing for the subject resolution is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 1:30 PM.
- The source of funding is the General Fund Reserves.
- See Mr. Riemer's memorandum to Councilmembers and the Executive on ©1-3.
- See ConnectedDMV's presentation on the new initiative on ©6-20
- See ConnectedDMV's funding proposal for the new initiative ©21-23.
- This funding will support ConnectedDMV's "\$2.5 million Strategy Phase." Per ConnectedDMV's materials, a location decision will be made later in 2021 after additional work.
- An amendment to Section G, as recommended by the Chief Administrative Office, is required to implement this contract should the Council approve this appropriation.
- The scope and performance metrics of the contract to implement this funding have not been defined and could be part of a future PHED Committee review.

This report contains:

Councilmember Riemer Memo	©1-3
Proposed resolution	©4-5
ConnectedDMV Presentation	©6-20
ConnectedDMV Proposal	©21-23

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

HANS RIEMER
COUNCILMEMBER (AT LARGE)

CHAIR
PLANNING, HOUSING, AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmembers & County Executive Elrich
FROM: Councilmember Hans Riemer
DATE: January 6, 2021
RE: Appropriation to support new "Pandemic Prevention Center"

I propose the Council introduce a special appropriation for \$500,000 to the organization ConnectedDMV to help develop and advocate for a new global **Pandemic Prevention Center** here in Montgomery County.

As one of the world's biggest BioHealth clusters and home to the NIH and FDA, we are a natural choice to host this critical new agency. We have the opportunity -- and we should act now to close the deal.

ConnectedDMV is a regional non-profit organization that has convened a broad group of stakeholders from the public and private sectors across the capital region. They have identified a global Pandemic Prevention Center as a key need to keep the turmoil, loss of life, and economic devastation we have suffered at the hands of COVID from ever happening again. Among other initiatives, the Prevention Center would initially develop and maintain a stockpile of monoclonal antibodies that the US Government could rapidly deploy against future pandemics.

To hear more about ConnectedDMV's vision, you could listen to this podcast interview of ConnectedDMV CEO, Stu Solomon conducted by BioHealth Innovation CEO Rich Bendis. Mr. Bendis is playing a leadership role in the early stages of conceptualizing this center:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stu-solomon-connected-dmv/id1274273731?i=1000501613778>

The Washington Post covered the launch of ConnectedDMV:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2020/12/23/connected-economic-task-force-dc-maryland-virginia/>

This multi-billion dollar federal investment would be great for America, and hosting it here in Montgomery County would further secure our status as home to the world's leading pandemic response institutes and top medical scientists - the place where breakthroughs happen.

ConnectedDMV has outlined a budget of about \$2.5 million for the initial planning and staffing phases, and a budget of \$2 billion to create the stockpile of 100 antibodies, much of which will be federally funded. The concept of the antibody stockpile is to identify the top 100 known pathogens that could cause the next pandemic, and then take antibodies through clinical trials and put the effective antibodies into storage for rapid deployment in the future.

While this process is only just beginning and there is a long road ahead, a modest investment by Montgomery County would cement Montgomery County as the consensus location for a federal Pandemic Center, allow ConnectedDMV to accelerate its work, and help ensure it can be a high priority for the incoming Biden administration.

This will also build on one of the key initiatives I have been working on as Chair of the PHED committee: to build programs that seek to leverage our Federal research institutes. Working with MCEDC, I convened a PHED meeting in September of 2018 that brought together leaders in bio and tech sectors to talk about leveraging NIH, NIST, FDA, DOE and DOD to create new companies and high wage job growth.

Among the steps that followed from that meeting, the Council backed my proposal to re-establish our supportive funding relationship with BioHealth Innovation (BHI). BHI has been a powerful resource for our growing life sciences sector and in fact Mr. Bendis has been instrumental in conceiving of the Pandemic Center.

Now in the crisis of COVID-19, we are seeing a significant acceleration of investment in biohealth in our region flowing from our Federal institutes. As [Bisnow reported](#) on October 6:

The Department of Health and Human Services has distributed billions of dollars through its Operation Warp Speed program, with a goal of producing and delivering 300 million doses of effective vaccines starting in January. Four of the 10 companies that have received the most funding are based in Montgomery County, BioHealth Innovation CEO Richard Bendis said.

Gaithersburg-based Novavax received \$1.6B to manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine, HHS announced July 7. Rockville-based Emergent BioSolutions received \$628M in funding, HHS announced June 1. U.K.-based GlaxoSmithKline, which has a Global Vaccine Center in Rockville, was part of a partnership that received \$2B in vaccine funding. AstraZenaca, a U.K.-based company with a major Gaithersburg facility, received \$1.2B in vaccine funding in May.

As much growth as we are already seeing, this may be just the beginning. We should all hope that in the wake of this global disaster, pandemic preparedness will become an urgent ongoing priority. According to a WHO expert, in fact, [this pandemic is “not necessarily the big one.”](#) The County is poised to make significant contributions going forward and we should invest in our strengths.

With many players at the table in the conversation, from the state of Maryland and our MCEDC and Executive branch team, to other jurisdictions in the region, the County Council should take a leadership role to move this forward as quickly as possible by putting forward the appropriation needed to make our participation possible and, again, to confirm the location for the Center in Montgomery County.

Under the framework I am proposing, the Council will adopt the appropriation and the County Executive (and team) will serve on the strategy committee.

To that end, in addition to providing the financial support, the Executive branch should immediately begin working with ConnectedDMV to identify various options for a future location for the Center, as well as explore partnerships with Montgomery College, the Universities at Shady Grove, and key employers.

I look forward to your support and collaboration to develop this important initiative.

Additional information about the proposal is attached.

CC: Rich Bendis, BioHealth Innovation, Inc.

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead sponsor: Councilmember Riemer

SUBJECT: Special Appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget, Office of the County Executive, ConnectedDMV Contract, Global Pandemic Prevention Center, \$500,000 (Source of Funds: General Fund Reserves)

Background

1. Section 308 of the County Charter provides that a special appropriation is an appropriation which states that it is necessary to meet an unforeseen disaster or other emergency, or to act without delay in the public interest. Each special appropriation shall be approved by not less than six Councilmembers. The Council may approve a special appropriation at any time after public notice by news release. Each special appropriation shall specify the source of funds to finance it.
2. A new coronavirus disease, named COVID-19, appeared in China in December 2019 and spread extremely quickly. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the disease a pandemic.
3. The efforts to contain the spread of the disease and the disease itself continues to have a crippling impact on the economy and health of individuals.
4. ConnectedDMV is a regional non-profit organization that has convened a broad group of stakeholders from the academic, public, and private sectors within the D.C. region.
5. ConnectedDMV has identified a global Pandemic Prevention Center as critical to avoid turmoil, loss of life, and economic devastation from future pandemics. Among other initiatives, the global Pandemic Prevention Center will initially develop and maintain a stockpile of monoclonal antibodies that the U.S. Government could rapidly deploy against future pandemics.
6. ConnectedDMV is seeking financial support to being this initiative. Through this funding, the County will be provided the opportunity to participate in the foundation of this initiative, including the possibility of locating the global Pandemic Prevention Center within the County.

7. A FY21 Operating Budget special appropriation is requested for the Office of the County Executive:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserve

8. Notice of public hearing was given and a public hearing was held.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

A special appropriation to the FY21 Operating Budget for the Office of the County Executive:

<u>Personnel Services</u>	<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	General Fund Undesignated Reserve

This appropriation is needed to act without delay in the public interest.

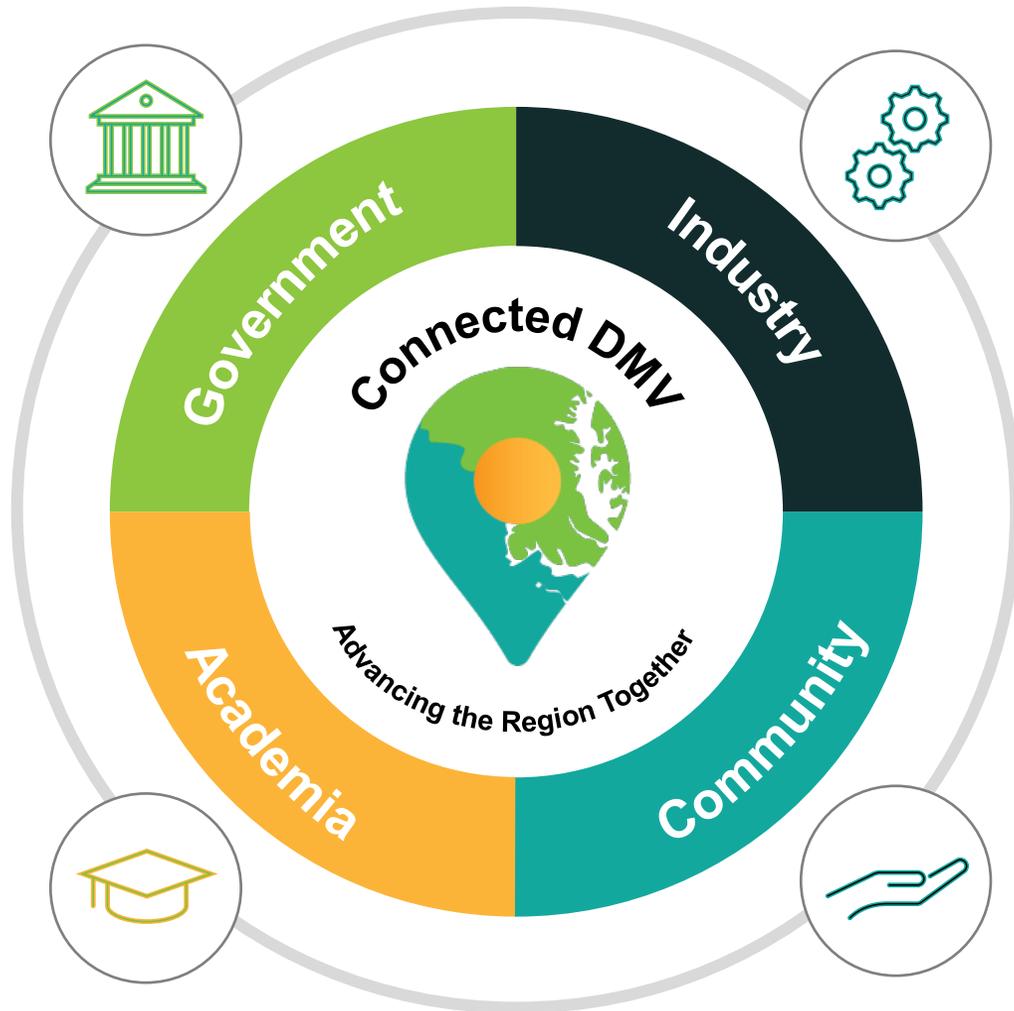
This appropriation may only be used to fund a contract with ConnectedDMV and its efforts to locate the global Pandemic Prevention Center in the County.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council

Montgomery County: Proposal for Strategic Location for Global Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center

December 18, 2020

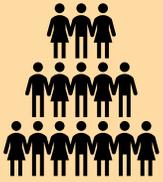


WE ARE A 501(c)(3) THAT IS:

- Governed by regional leaders
- Breaking down regional silos
- Delivering initiatives and results
- Preparing for the digital age
- Lifting marginalized communities
- Uniting regional organizations
- Gaining momentum



GLOBAL PANDEMIC PREVENTION AND BIODEFENSE CENTER



The **Human Cost** is catastrophic, with far too many lives lost.

>1M
Global COVID Deaths



The **Economic Cost** is exorbitant, unsustainable, and crippling to society.

>\$10 Trillion
Estimated Global Cost of COVID Pandemic



Pandemics are predictable, and future outbreaks are certain.

8
Pandemics since 1900

- **Inadequate readiness and response coordination** fosters uncertainty, chaos, and division
- **Bilateral relationships are insufficient** across public, private, academia, and community
- **Lack of rapidly deployable solutions** delays response to pandemic threats
- **Innovation has outpaced** societal and policy alignment
- **Technology has matured** to help us anticipate and quickly respond
- **Proactive solutions are attainable** to forestall massive loss of life and economic upheaval
- **Pandemic and biodefense prevention / preparedness / response** requires close coordination
- **Cross-sector leadership is required**; we will continue to chase pandemics unless robust, targeted action is taken

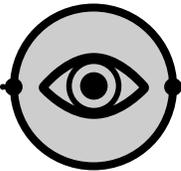
We can get in front of global outbreaks with an integrated approach.

US leadership is required.

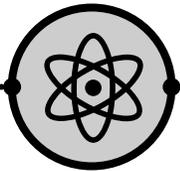
Define and develop a **Global Pandemic Prevention & Biodefense Center** to:



Enable integration across gov't, industry & academia



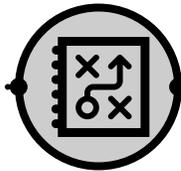
Establish rapid threat identification & infrastructure



Initiate & accelerate emerging platforms/solutions



Advance global pandemic policies, partnerships & programs



Design readiness frameworks for all levels of government

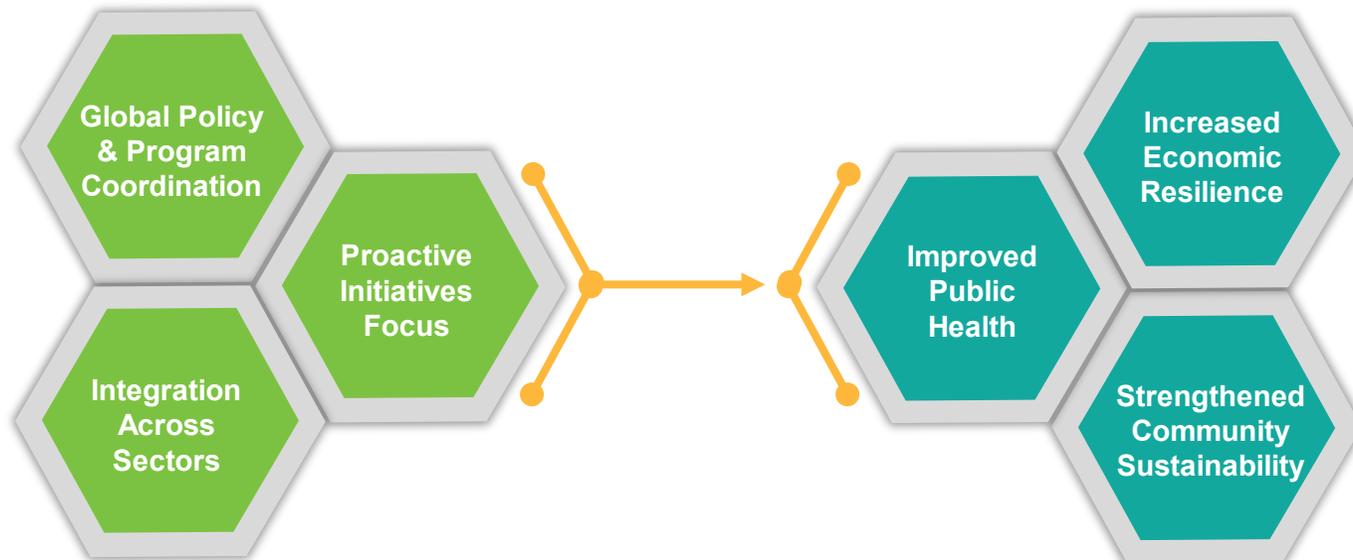


Gather & develop societal & business best practices



Identify & address implications for underserved communities

Essential Elements



Focused Outcomes

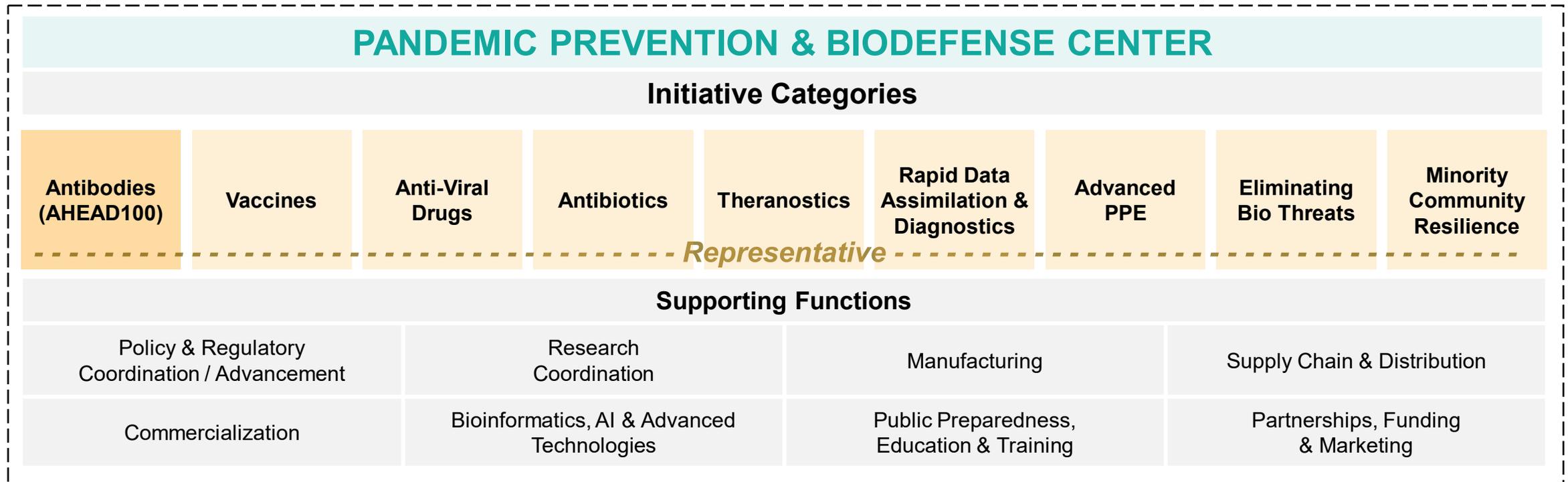
Integration: A Necessary Priority

Comprehensive preparedness demands a public-private-academia approach

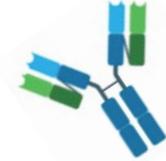
Stage Stakeholder	Public Health Policy	Basic Research & Discovery	Applied Technology & Pre-Clinical Studies	Clinical Trials (Phases 1/2/3)	Manufacturing	Supply Chain & Distribution	Community Preparedness
Federal Government	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
State/Local Government						✓	✓
Academia		✓	✓	✓			
Philanthropy		✓					✓
Non-Profits	✓	✓					✓
Investors		✓	✓	✓			
Biotech			✓	✓	✓		
Pharma			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Health Care						✓	✓

By advancing focused initiatives through an integrated model, the Center will:

- **Integrate and coordinate** ongoing functions across the pandemic prevention value chain
- **Originate, enable, and facilitate key initiatives** that advance pandemic preparedness; initially launching **AHEAD100**
- **Collaborate across** Federal, state, and local governments; industry; academia; civil society; and the diplomatic community
- **Constitute a public-private structure** to complement and support the missions of NIH/NIAID, ASPR/BARDA, DARPA, etc.



A targeted program that seeks to develop best-in-class neutralizing human monoclonal antibody solutions for the top 100 most likely causes of pandemics



WHY AHEAD100?

- Increased Optionality & Reduced Risk** Advances a broad portfolio of antibodies for the widest diversity of pathogens possible vs. a big bet on a single pathogen, which may or may not occur.
- Speed of Response** Develops solutions *ahead* of need, giving government and industry a “warm” stockpile system with readiness for last-mile development when outbreaks occur.
- Innovation Potential** Establishes platforms and techniques for ultra-fast development, with great potential for spin-off IP and applications.





Steering Committee

- Provide strategic direction during the Strategy Phase
- Make decisions and approve key deliverables
- Assist with advocacy, relationships, and funding

Strategy Team

- Deliver the Strategy Phase
- Supplement with professional services
- Incorporate input from Subject Matter Experts and Advisors

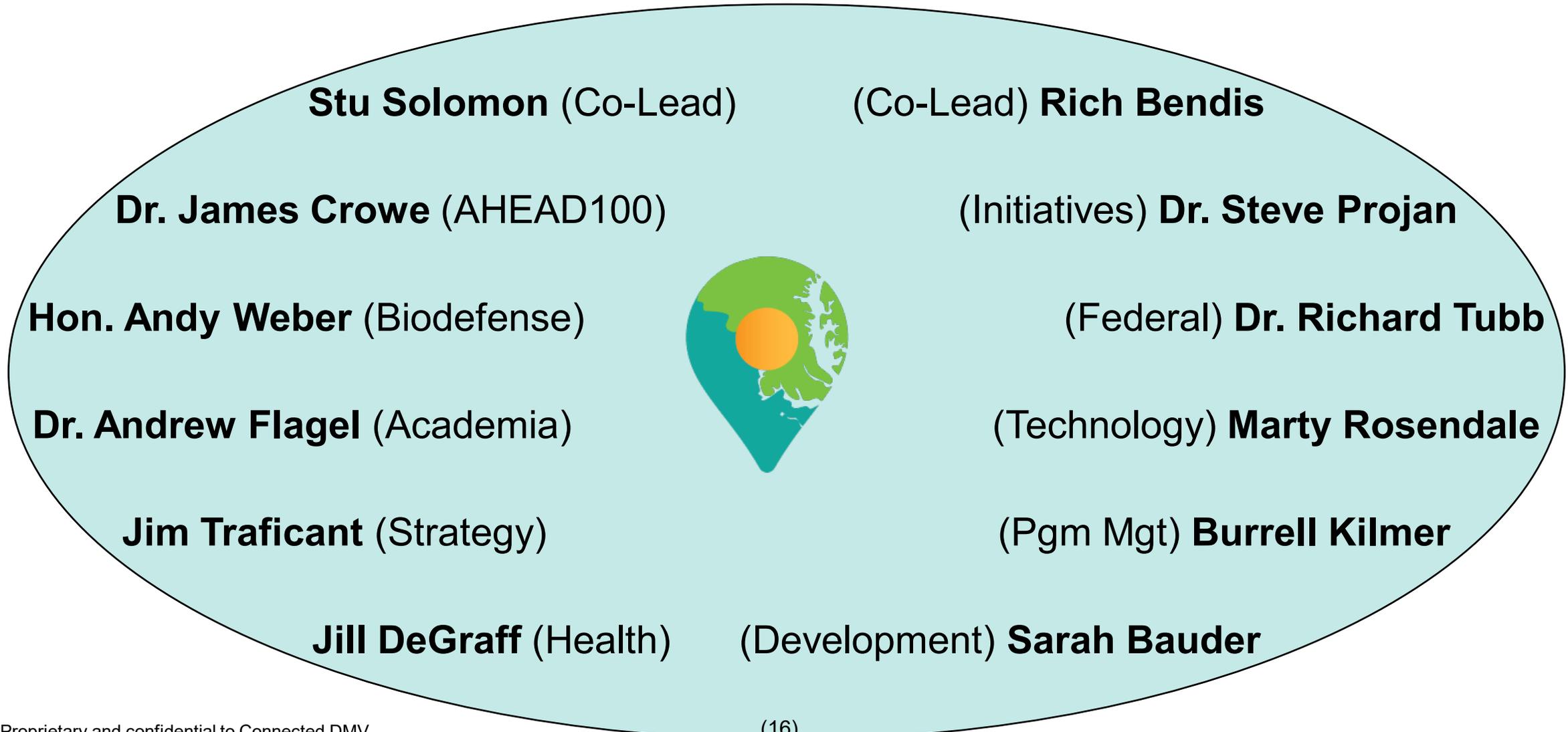
Solution Groups

- Include Volunteer representatives from local organizations
- Supplemental support for Strategy Team

Advisors & SMEs

- Represent scientific, business, & government organizations
- Interview candidates for Strategy Phase input
- Ad-hoc availability to support during the Strategy Phase

A cohesive set of leaders is committed to delivering an integrated strategy for pandemic prevention



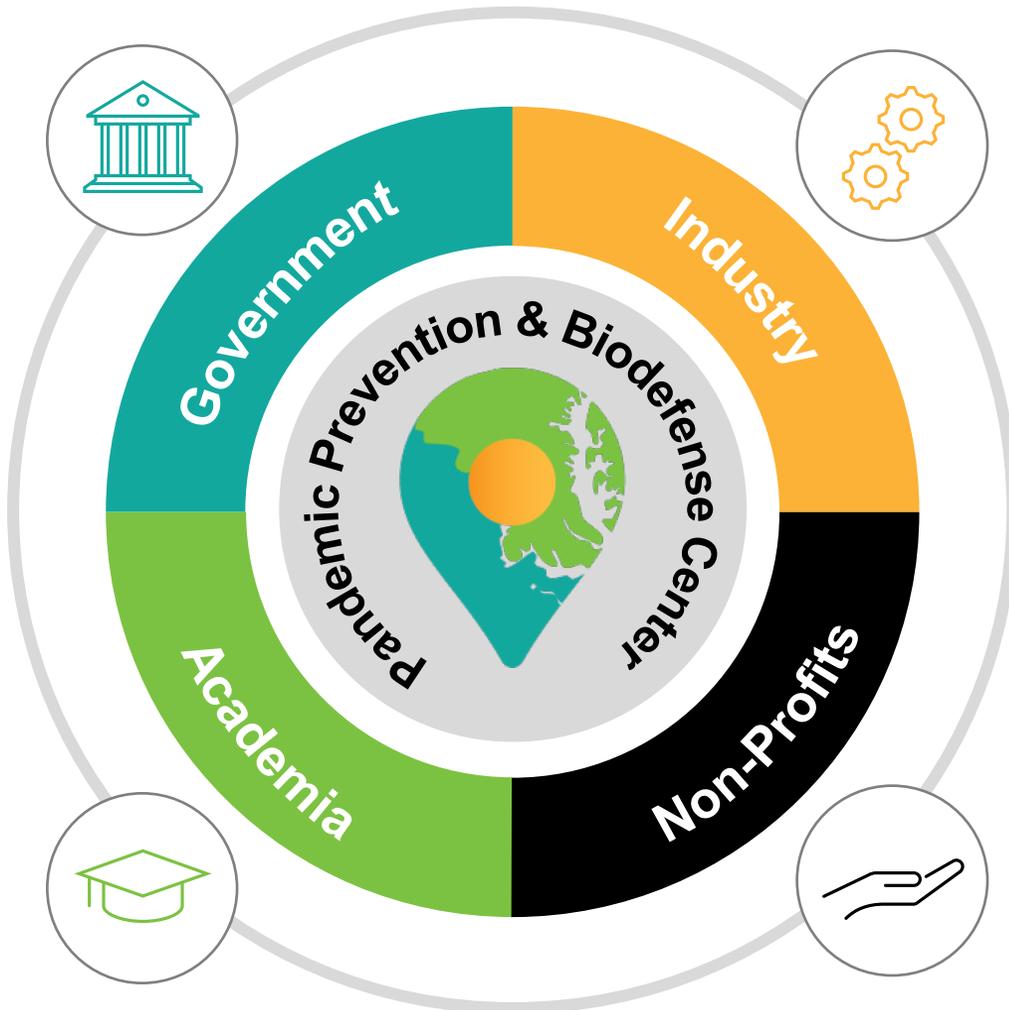
Steering Committee

Steering Committee Facilitator
Stu Solomon, Co-Lead

Rich Bendis, Co-Lead
Dr. James Crowe, Chief Scientist

Non-Profits		Academia	Government		Industry	
Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) <i>Phyllis Arthur</i>	Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense <i>Dr. Asha George</i>	Consortium of Universities of Washington Metro Area <i>Dr. Andrew Flagel</i>	State of Maryland <i>Kelly Schulz</i>	USAMRDC / USAMRIID <i>TBD*</i>	Emergent BioSolutions <i>Nina DeLorenzo</i>	DLA Piper <i>Jim Greenwood</i>
Brigadier Gen (ret.) White House Physician Emeritus <i>Dr. Richard Tubb</i>	S&R Foundation <i>Dr. Sachiko Kuno</i>	Founder, AHEAD100 Vanderbilt Vaccine Ctr <i>Dr. James Crowe</i>	Montgomery County <i>Marc Elrich</i>	DARPA <i>TBD*</i>	GSK <i>Dr. Rebecca Farkas</i>	Founder, BeatTheReaper <i>Dr. Steve Projan</i>
Montgomery County Economic Dev. Corp. <i>Ben Wu</i>	Former ASD for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense <i>Hon. Andy Weber</i>	University System of Maryland <i>Dr. Jay Perman</i>	HHS/ASPR/BARDA <i>TBD*</i>	JPEO-CBRND <i>TBD</i>	Pharma 3 <i>TBD*</i>	Health System Provider <i>TBD*</i>
Virginia Bio <i>John Newby</i>	Maryland Tech Council <i>Marty Rosendale</i>	U.S. Academic Institution <i>TBD</i>	NIH / NIAID <i>TBD*</i>	Walter Reed Army Institute of Research <i>TBD</i>	Becton Dickinson <i>Dave Hickey</i>	McKinsey <i>TBD*</i>
Connected DMV <i>Stu Solomon</i>	BioHealth Innovation <i>Rich Bendis</i>	International Academic Institution / Europe <i>TBD</i>	Operation Warp Speed <i>TBD*</i>	Naval Medical Research Center <i>TBD</i>	Chair, Five Biotech Companies <i>Ken Kelley</i>	Pinkston <i>Jim Traficant</i>
CEPI <i>Nick Jackson</i>		International Academic Institution / Asia <i>TBD</i>	CDC <i>TBD</i>			

* In discussion, confirmation pending



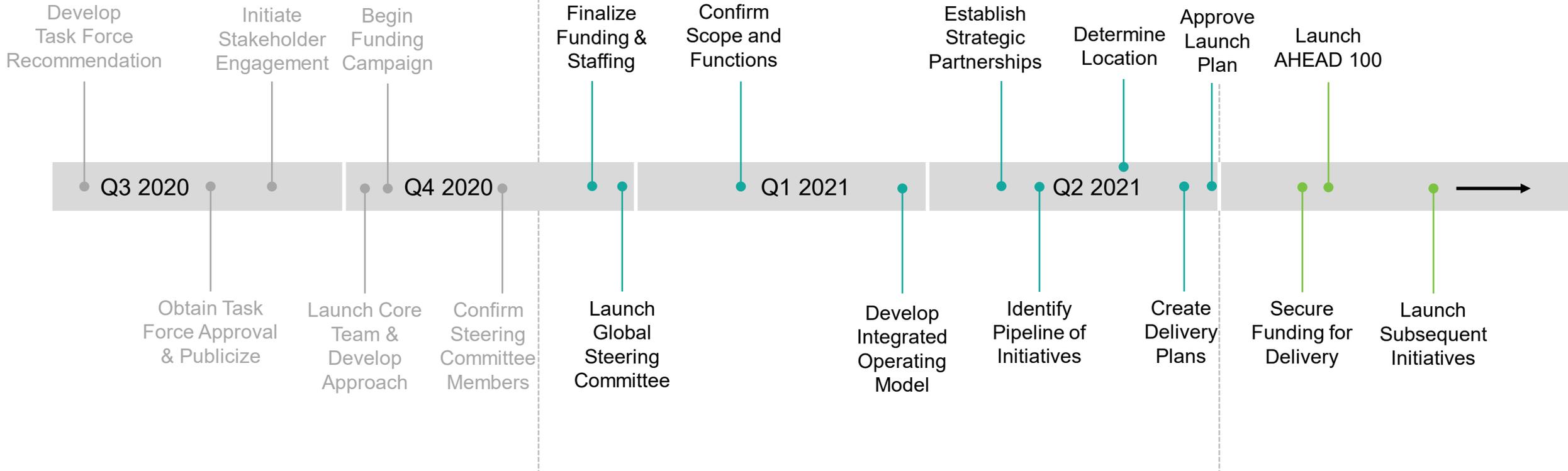
Montgomery County, Maryland:

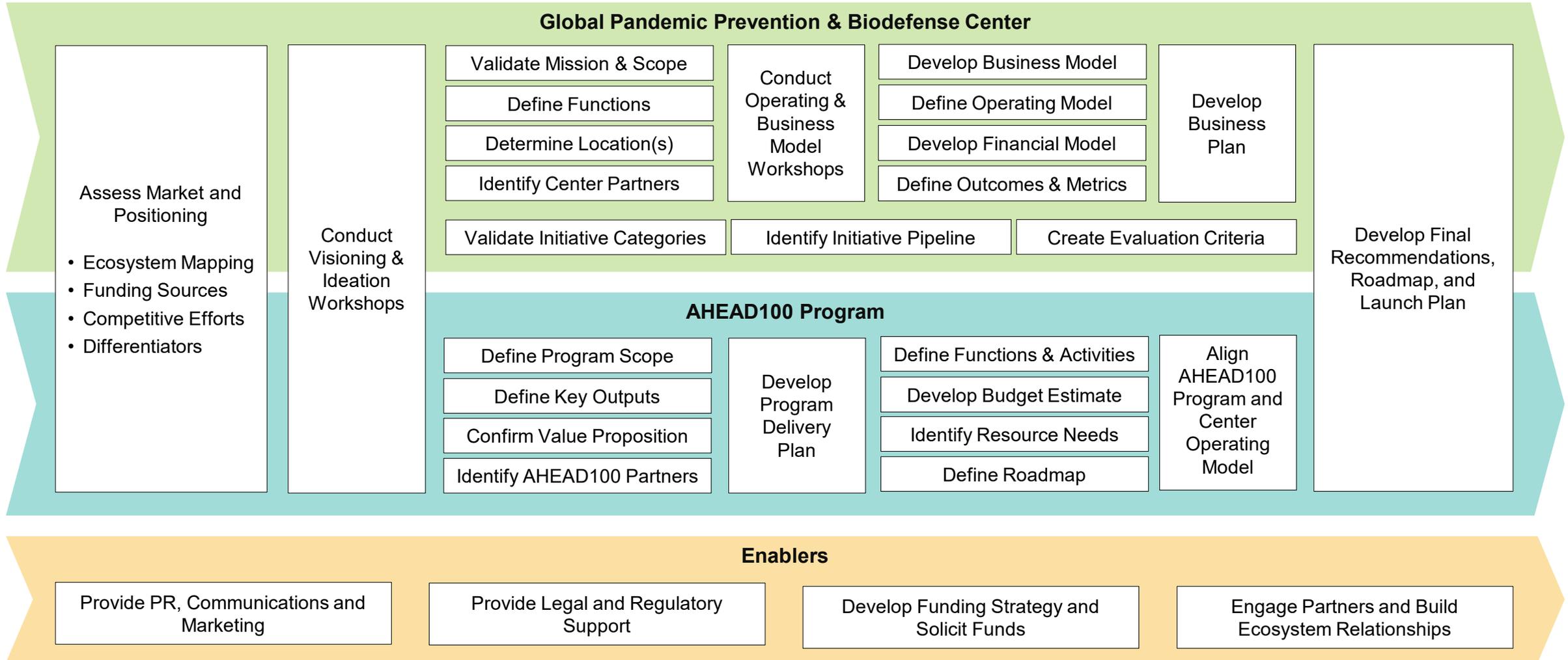
- Extensive ecosystem of government, industry, academia, and non-profits
- Home to the FDA, NIH/NIAID, NIST, and close proximity to ASPR/BARDA, DARPA, other critical national biodefense assets
- Over 400 leading pharma and biohealth companies, including AstraZeneca, GSK, Emergent, and Novovax, which have received over \$6B of BARDA Operation Warp Speed funding
- University System of Maryland, and The Universities at Shady Grove campus
- Strategic non-profits and philanthropic organization

Initiation Phase

Strategy Phase (\$2.5M)

Delivery Phase (\$2B)





PROJECT NAME	Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center
SECTORS	Public, Private, Academia, Nonprofit
SUMMARY	<p>The Connected DMV COVID-19 Strategic Renewal Task Force has approved an initiative for a global Pandemic Center in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area. The Center will serve as the world's epicenter for pandemic prevention and biodefense ecosystem coordination. The Center will also identify and launch strategic projects needed to advance pandemic avoidance and preparedness, while providing the necessary collaboration and coordination for updated public health policy, research and discovery, applied technology, trials, manufacturing, and distribution for strategic solutions.</p> <p>The identified launch project, "AHEAD100", founded by Dr. James Crowe, is an integrated public-private-academia program to generate and stockpile best-in-class, neutralizing monoclonal antibodies for the top 100 known pathogens most likely to result in global epidemics.</p>
REQUESTED AMOUNT	\$500,000 representing 20% of the initial funding request
PAYMENT SCHEDULE	Payment in Full requested by 2/1/2020
PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hans Riemer as Montgomery County Council initiative sponsor • Marc Elrich to serve on the Steering Committee for the Strategy Phase • Scheduled progress updates with the Strategy Team • Membership on the Advisory Committee • Assistance in identifying and incorporating the appropriate Maryland organizations/institutions
BENEFITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help establish Montgomery County as the global epicenter for pandemic prevention • Accelerate economic development for pandemic prevention capabilities and solutions • Strengthen the ecosystem and integrate efforts of public, private, academic, & federal partners • Attract talent and create a workforce development pipeline • Recognized sponsorship in Connected DMV press releases, public events, website, social media, and communications
USE OF FUNDS	Funds will be applied to project payroll, technology, legal and administrative support, and subject matter expertise
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Potential for additional in-kind support by placing Montgomery County representative on 6 months Strategy Team

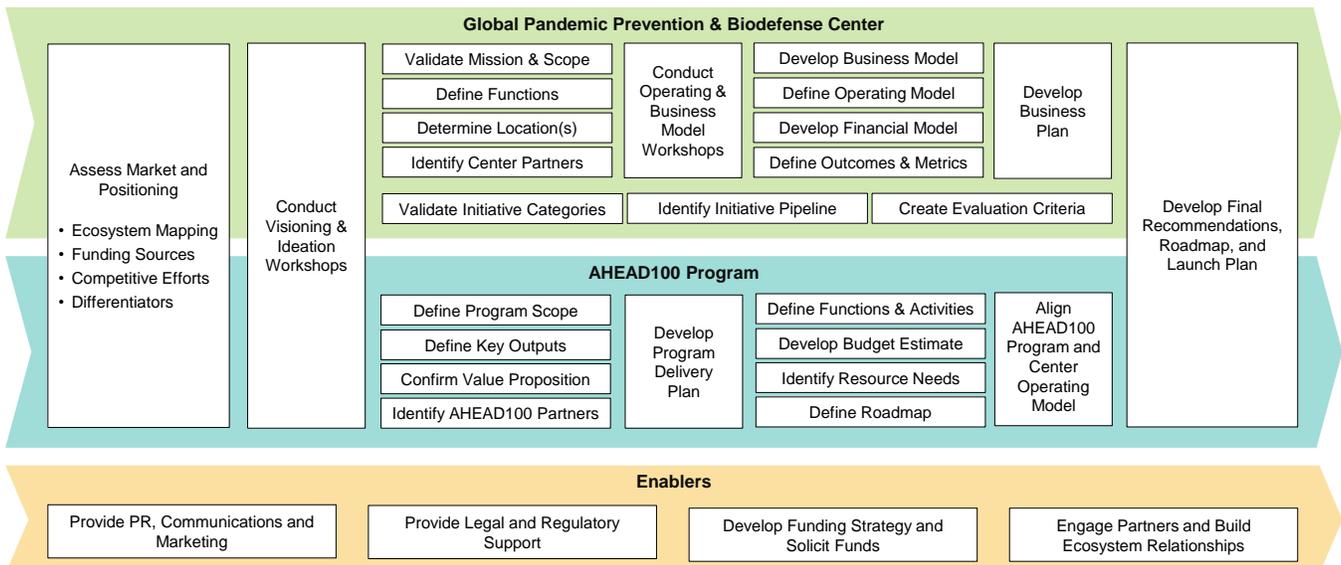


Figure 1. Strategy Phase Scope and Approach

STRATEGY PHASE BUDGET

The following line items comprise the Strategy Phase Budget summarized in Figure 2:

Item	Estimated Amount
Personnel	\$1,400,000
Subject Matter Experts	\$100,000
Consulting & Professional Fees	\$540,000
Legal Support	\$120,000
Computers and Equipment	\$12,000
Printing and Publications	\$3,000
Materials and Supplies	\$2,000
Indirect Costs	\$3,000
Delivery Phase Mobilization	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$2,580,000

1. **Personnel** - Funds salaries and fringe benefits for 10-12 Connected DMV FTEs including solution architects, solution designers, analysts, and stakeholder engagement personnel who will form the Core Team that is managing the project, executing the work, and creating the deliverables. The team also includes marketing and communications professionals to write press releases, respond to media inquiries, post social media content, and develop other marketing materials related to the initiative.
2. **Subject Matter Experts** – Funds to engage contractors who will join the core team of personnel to bring specialized skills and content knowledge required to develop the Pandemic Center strategy including the operating model, pipeline of initiatives, funding models, and delivery plans.
3. **Consulting & Professional Fees** – Funds to engage professional services / consulting firm(s) who will bring relevant domain knowledge, industry expertise, and client experience to the core team. Our expectation is that the consulting firms will provide a combination of billable and in-kind services.
4. **Legal Support** – Funds to engage a law firm who will provide legal, policy, and regulatory advisory services. Our expectation is that the law firm will provide a combination of billable and in-kind services.
5. **Computer and Equipment** – Funds to purchase laptop computers for Connected DMV personnel.
6. **Printing and Publications** – Funds to print and publish an executive summary of the final Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center Strategy as well as other materials to support marketing and Delivery Phase fundraising activities.
7. **Materials and Supplies** – Funds to purchase office supplies and other materials, which are expected to be minimal given that most work will be performed remotely with meetings conducted by teleconference.
8. **Indirect Costs** – Funds an allocation of Connected DMV back office support services including technology (e.g., communications platform, videoconferencing, shared document repository) and accounting.
9. **Delivery Phase Mobilization** – Funds to support personnel salaries needed to mobilize the delivery phase over an estimated period of 2 months.

Figure 2. Strategy Phase Budget

Connected DMV

PROJECT NAME	Pandemic Prevention and Biodefense Center	
SECTORS	Public, Private, Academia, Nonprofit	
TIME TO CLOSE	2 Months	TIME TO IMPLEMENT 6 Months – Strategy Phase
SUMMARY	<p>The Connected DMV COVID-19 Strategic Renewal Task Force has approved an initiative for a global Pandemic Center in the Greater Washington Metropolitan area. The Center will serve as the world’s epicenter for pandemic prevention and biodefense ecosystem coordination. The Center will also identify and launch strategic projects needed to advance pandemic avoidance and preparedness, while providing the necessary collaboration and coordination for updated public health policy, research and discovery, applied technology, trials, manufacturing, and distribution for strategic solutions.</p> <p>The identified launch project, “AHEAD100”, founded by Dr. James Crowe, is an integrated public-private-academia program to generate and stockpile best-in-class, neutralizing monoclonal antibodies for the top 100 known pathogens most likely to result in global epidemics.</p>	
BUSINESS MODEL	501(c)(3) organization with co-equal participation across industry, government, and philanthropy.	
GOVERNANCE	Independent governance via a steering committee comprised of leaders across relevant domains. Following the Strategy Phase, a formal Board of Trustees will be installed. The steering committee and board will comprise public, private, academic, and community leaders.	
KEY PARTICIPANTS	Initial collaborators include: Dr. James Crowe, Dr. Richard Tubb, Dr. Steve Projan, Honorable Andy Weber, Connected DMV, University System of Maryland, BioHealth Innovation, Maryland Technology Council, Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense, DLA Piper, Aperture Law Group, Biotech and Pharma industry leaders, a global philanthropist, a local government official.	
VALUE PROPOSITION	<p>Global loss of life from COVID-19 exceeds 1.3 million with economic loss estimated at over \$10 trillion. Preparing monoclonal antibodies solutions for the leading pathogens through Phase 1 will cost \$2 billion and enable society to be weeks from a solution when an outbreak occurs saving countless lives and evading massive economic and societal disruption. Further the Pandemic Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrates across public, private, academia, and community participants • Will be in proximity with NIH/NIAID, the FDA, DoD, ASPR/BARDA and others • To be funded 50/50 by philanthropic and government monies • Accelerates development/availability of monoclonal antibodies for world’s top 100 pathogens • Places a priority on traditionally underrepresented communities and populations • Integrates with DoD and organizations such as the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense • Integrates with local government and community pandemic preparedness plans 	
FUNDING MODEL & BUDGET	<p>\$2M Strategy Phase to be funded by philanthropy, industry, and government sponsorships. \$2B launch initiative (AHEAD100) to be equally funded by philanthropy and federal government. Center operating budget funded as a percentage of strategic initiative budgets.</p>	
USE OF FUNDS	\$2.5M Strategy Phase funds will be applied to project team payroll, technology, legal and administrative support, and subject matter expertise.	
COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY	Pursue as a Day 1 initiative for the Biden administration as a long-term complement to the COVID-19 response team. Equip the new Administration to make this announcement in January 2021, demonstrating a long-term commitment to science and pandemic prevention.	
ECOSYSTEM	The ecosystem will comprise organizations and institutions from: Federal, State, and Local Government, Nonprofits, Industry, Academia, Health Care, Biotech, Defense, and Pharma.	
TIMELINE	The 6 months Strategy Phase begins in December 2020 followed by a formal launch of the Center. AHEAD100 will begin upon confirmation of funding.	
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	Confirming this initiative within the new HHS budget will prevent adjustments downstream. The team is beginning communications with the Biden HHS Transition team.	