The Jo Daviess County Health Department is looking for volunteers to join their Medical Reserve Corps.

The Medical Reserve Corps, also known as MRC, is a national program to create local volunteers that can provide assistance to their public health departments and their communities during a public health emergency or disaster. The MRC was created in 2002, after 9/11 due to the high volume of people who wanted to help, but there was no organized approach. Throughout the United States there are 990 community based units with almost 200,000 volunteers. Jo Daviess County Health Department’s MRC was created in 2009 and currently has 18 active volunteers for a county of over 22,000 people.

Volunteers include medical and non-medical personnel so any member of the community who wishes to make a difference can become a member of the MRC. In the case of a natural disaster, a public health emergency, or terrorist activity, duties would be assigned according to the volunteer’s abilities and the needs of the community. MRC volunteers would play an important role in emergency management by helping to reestablish the emotional and physical wellbeing of those who are affected by any disaster.

MRC members receive free training and assist the health department in community events and drills. In the event of a local emergency, MRC members may be called on to assist alongside other groups such as fire departments, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Red Cross, and local and state organizations. Tasks could include handing out supplies, giving out needed information, taking phone calls, immunization administration, medical assessments, health education, or medical support depending on the person’s skills and background.

For more information call the Jo Daviess County Health Department at 815-777-0263. The application can be found at http://www.jodaviess.org/mrc or in person at the Jo Daviess County Health Department.