



California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors (CAPHLD)

CLIA Personnel Requirements
impacting the
Public Health Laboratory Director
Training Program

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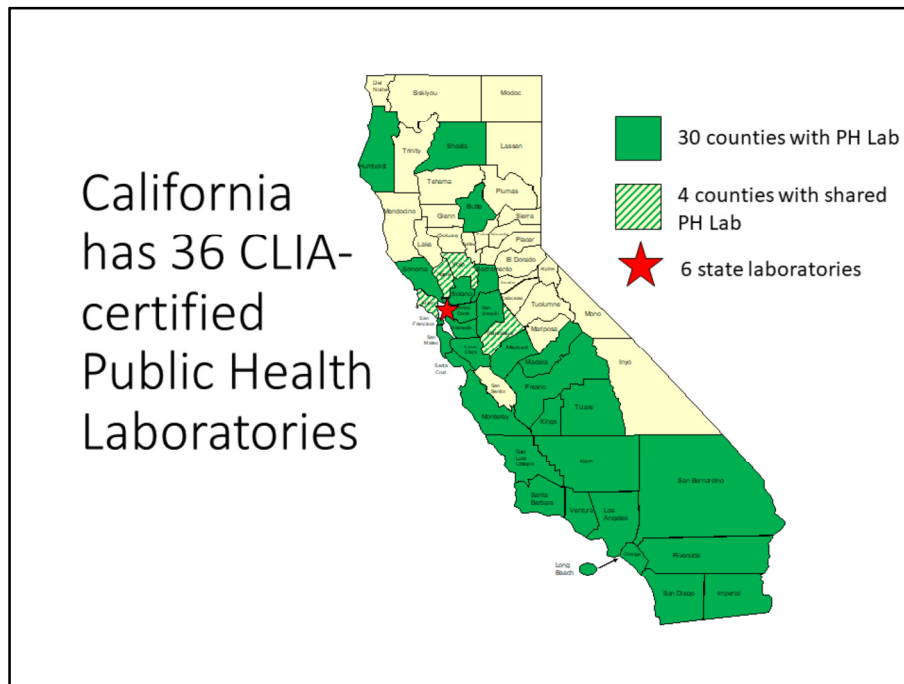
The California Association of Public Health Laboratory Directors appreciates this opportunity to provide comments to CLIAC.



LabAspire
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

- Support recommendations to standardize degree requirements as proposed by ABB
- CAPHLD and LabAspire are willing to work collaboratively with CMS, CLIAC, ABB and APHL
- LabAspire candidates come from a variety of scientific backgrounds related to public health
 - Highly experienced lab managers enrolled in DrPH programs
 - PhD microbiologists achieving supervisory experience
- Hope to establish certainty about acceptability of doctoral degrees based on educational content

The Public Health system nationwide is facing a severe shortage of qualified Public Health Laboratory Directors. As we train new candidates, we are facing difficulty with the uncertainty over the degree requirements. The CAPHLD LabAspire Public Health Laboratory Director Training program strongly supports the recommendations of ABB to standardize degree requirements for these important personnel. With many new scientific doctoral degrees available, we agree that the critical issue is not the title of a degree but the review of content for the field of study, referred to as “essential education content”, when determining acceptability of degrees. We are willing to work collaboratively with CMS, CLIAC, ABB and APHL to provide input and find a workable solution.



Because of California's large population and geographic area, it is not efficient or effective for government operations (including public health) to be conducted by a single, centralized agency. Therefore, in the same way that state public health labs serve as filters for the national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) laboratories, in CA the local public health labs serve as filters for the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

In addition to its 6 CLIA-certified state public health laboratories, California is unique in having an additional 30 local public health laboratories that serve 58 local jurisdictions known as counties. This public health laboratory network is essential to meet the needs of the population of 44 million (12% of the total population of the United States).

California's Public Health Lab Director Crisis



Comparing this map to the previous one, it's evident that California is facing a severe shortage of qualified Public Health Laboratory Directors. California is experiencing the same shortage at both the state and local level, due to a combination of an aging workforce and shrinking pay scale. Because of this shortage, California has created the LabAspire program to help qualified personnel complete the requirements to become Public Health Laboratory Directors. We hope to work collaboratively with CMS, CLIA, ABB and APHL to find a solution to Public Health Laboratory Director qualifications. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present this information.