FACT SHEET

National Center for Environmental Health
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI) is a 1-year program of seminars and workshops, special projects, and individual study. Each year, up to 30 practicing environmental public health professionals are admitted to the program. Since 2005, 113 scholars have graduated from the institute.

Why EPHLI?

The institute was developed to strengthen the country's environmental public health system by enhancing the leadership capabilities of state and local environmental public health specialists. Participants are selected from multiple and diverse agencies and organizations in various settings. Emphasis is placed on

- enhancing strategic visioning and direction-setting skills through critical thinking and analysis (systems thinking), political effectiveness, and organizational and team development;
- using the core functions of public health as a foundation for achieving environmental public health goals;
- creating proactive environmental public health leaders who can mobilize resources in response to the changing public health environment (core competencies for local environmental health practitioners);
- enhancing the performance outcomes of the essential services of environmental public health; and
- promoting and improving the delivery of environmental public health services to communities.

How Does EPHLI Strengthen These Programs?

EPHLI graduates use what they have learned to increase the ability of their environmental public health programs to provide essential environmental public health services. These state and local programs will be better able to respond to emerging environmental public health threats and coordinate the delivery of effective services.

> ***"EPHLI exceeded my expectations in areas I did not anticipate, particularly in the area of personal growth."***
> **—Connie Mendel, Louisville Metro Health Department**

The success of the institute is not only demonstrated by the innovative approaches taken to resolve complex issues or the perseverance of champions to promote change. Scholars have reported substantial growth, both personal and professional, as a result of their participation in the institute.

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EPHLI, Continued

What Do Fellows Do?

Each scholar is assigned to a team and team mentor. The team mentor facilitates the development of an action learning environment. Scholars work collaboratively with team members to develop successful problem-solving strategies. The focal point of the scholar's experience is the development of a leadership project that is germane to the scholar, the organization where he or she works, and the practice of environmental public health (http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ephli/keywords.htm). Each scholar incorporates new tools and problem-solving strategies into his or her leadership project as he or she progresses through the institute.

> ***"EPHLI has taught me how to think differently about solutions and challenges, looking at causality and root problems instead of reaction-based activities and the status quo."***
> **—Jefferson Ketchel, Public Health–Seattle and King County**

Final reports from the scholars address the CDC Health Protection Goals of Healthy People in Healthy Places: Healthy Communities, Healthy Homes, Healthy Schools, and Healthy Travel and Recreation; and People Prepared for Emerging Health Threats.

What Is the Time Commitment?

Scholars attend four in-person sessions, complete a final project, and complete systems thinking homework.

Program sessions for the class of 2008–2009 are

- February 25–29, 2008 (CDC, Atlanta)
- May 12–16, 2008 (location to be determined)
- October 20–24, 2008 (St. Louis, MO)
- February 23-25, 2009 (scholar presentations and graduation; CDC, Atlanta)

CDC will pay all allowable and approved costs associated with participation in the institute.

How Can I Sign Up for EPHLI?

Admission procedures for the class of 2008–2009 are available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EPHLI/application.htm.

Applications are generally accepted each fall for the next year's class. (Applications for the class of 2008–2009 were accepted September 1–October 31, 2007.)

Where Can I Get More Information About EPHLI?

For more information about the institute, scholars, and mentors, visit the EPHLI Web site at http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EPHLI/ or contact Sharon Dickerson, MPA, at SDickerson@cdc.gov.

October 2007