



PHAP

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATE PROGRAM

The Public Health Associate Program (PHAP), managed by CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS), is an opportunity for entry-level public health professionals to gain hands-on, frontline experience in the day-to-day operation of public health programs. PHAP is geared toward recent graduates with a bachelor's or master's degree who are beginning a career in public health.

PHAP's mission is to establish a pipeline of public health professionals who, through training and field experience, are capable of meeting public health workforce needs at federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial (STLT) levels.

Upon completion of the two-year training program, associates are qualified to compete for entry-level career positions at CDC and other public health organizations.

Learning Prevention in the Field

Associates have the opportunity to work on prevention alongside other professionals across a variety of public health settings. As CDC assignees to host agencies in the state, tribal, local or territorial government public health system, associates hold positions that are similar to those of their agency coworkers.

Program Areas

Each appointment consists of two different one-year assignments in areas selected by the host agency, including:

- STD, TB, and/or HIV
- Other communicable diseases
- Chronic disease
- Environmental health
- Public health preparedness
- Global migration and quarantine
- Immunization
- Injury prevention
- Maternal and child health



Jackson HEALTH SYSTEM





Program Competency Domains

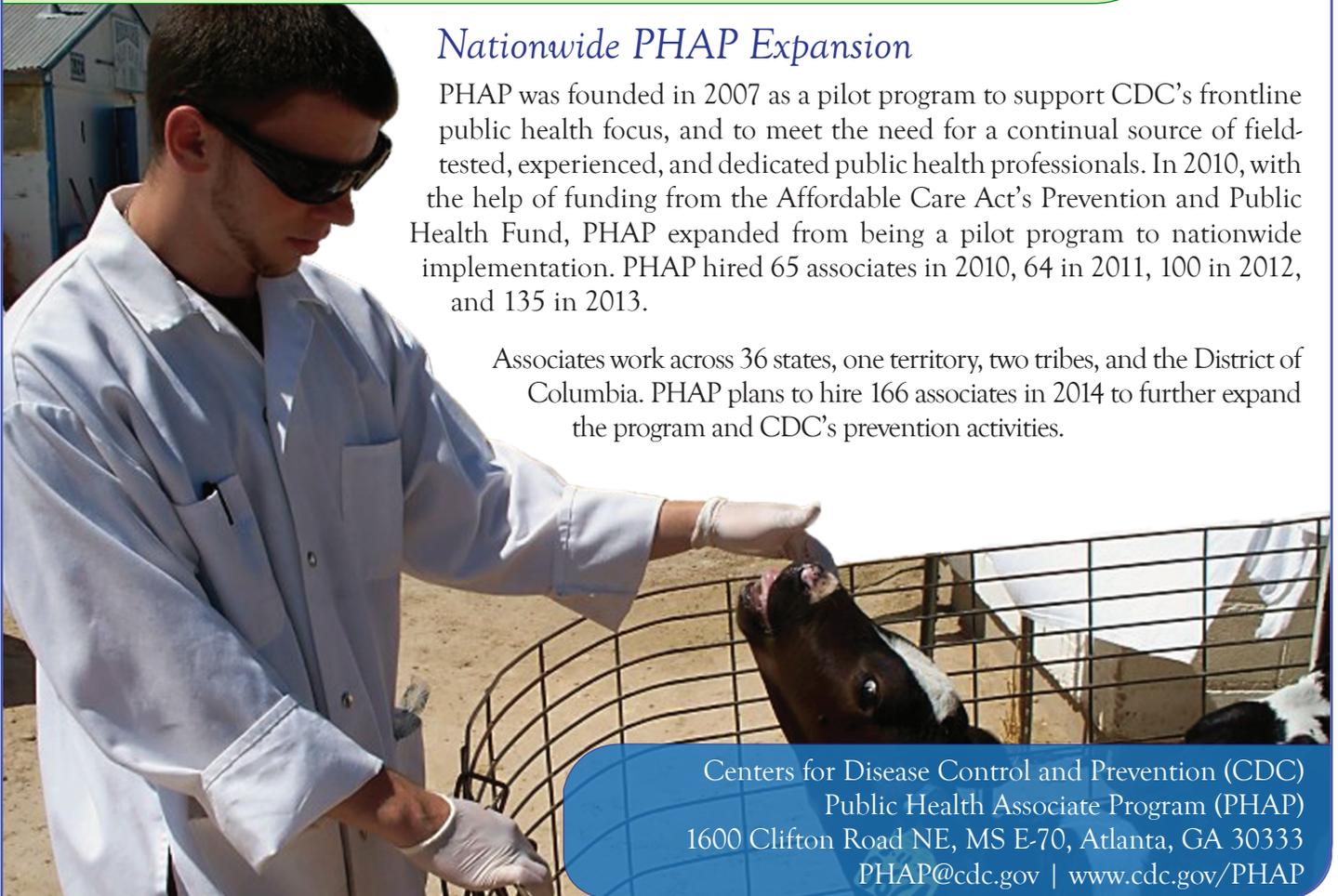
The PHAP curriculum focuses on developing competencies in key public health areas and includes formal instruction and on-the-job training. In addition to having an official job assignment, associates can participate in many skill-building activities, including seminars, workshops, web-based training, and conferences.

The following domains, or skill sets, provide a framework for developing job assignments, training curricula, and performance evaluation:

- 1) Public health program and practice skills
- 2) Communication skills
- 3) Cultural competency skills
- 4) Partnership and collaboration skills
- 5) Critical systems thinking skills

ABOVE: *Soumya Mamidala, 2012 PHAP graduate, presents at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center Childhood Obesity Conference.*

BELOW: *Shane Ryan, 2012 PHAP graduate, takes samples from calves at a dairy farm, investigating a possible E. coli outbreak.*



Nationwide PHAP Expansion

PHAP was founded in 2007 as a pilot program to support CDC's frontline public health focus, and to meet the need for a continual source of field-tested, experienced, and dedicated public health professionals. In 2010, with the help of funding from the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund, PHAP expanded from being a pilot program to nationwide implementation. PHAP hired 65 associates in 2010, 64 in 2011, 100 in 2012, and 135 in 2013.

Associates work across 36 states, one territory, two tribes, and the District of Columbia. PHAP plans to hire 166 associates in 2014 to further expand the program and CDC's prevention activities.

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