

Health Department Accreditation Program

Advancing Quality Improvement



About the Program

Since 2011, the national voluntary accreditation program for state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments has ensured health departments meet defined standards for public health services.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides funding to the [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#), which reviews and accredits health departments independently. The accreditation standards and measures are based on national public health frameworks, including the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#) and the [Foundational Capabilities](#). The accreditation program:

- **Drives quality improvement** by requiring health departments to continuously assess and strengthen processes.
- **Ensures accountability** through regular reporting and peer review.
- **Verifies that health departments meet evidence-based standards** to deliver essential public health services in communities.
- **Strengthens the systems that support the** programs and services offered by health departments.



By the Numbers: July 2026 Snapshot

- **40 state** health departments accredited
- **9 tribal** health departments accredited
- **422 local** health departments accredited
- **0 territorial / freely associated state** health departments accredited

What Accredited Health Departments Say in Surveys

93% said they were **better able to identify strengths and weaknesses** in their health department.

91% report **increased use of evidence-based practices** for public health programs and/or business practices.

[Contact us at phaccreditation@cdc.gov](mailto:phaccreditation@cdc.gov)

A Closer Look

Accreditation helps health departments strengthen their infrastructure in many ways such as:

- **Enhancing statewide health planning.** Accreditation helped the North Carolina Division of Public Health identify the need for a statewide health improvement plan in addition to existing county-level plans.
- **Increasing access to service programs.** Accreditation sparked a quality improvement project in the New Orleans Health Department that led to more referrals from hospitals and community clinics to the health department's direct services.
- **Building workforce knowledge.** The accreditation process supported a culture of learning for Nebraska's West Central District Health Department and helped new employees understand how their programs benefit the community.

Strengthening Public Health Services



Accredited and reaccredited health departments deliver essential services including:

- ✓ Collecting population health data
- ✓ Developing a community health assessment
- ✓ Maintaining a public health emergency operations plan
- ✓ Conducting and monitoring inspection activities
- ✓ Managing financial systems

CDC's Role in Accreditation

CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Center supports the accreditation program and helps health departments work toward accreditation through:

- **Funding and expert help** to PHAB for ongoing improvement and evaluation of the accreditation program, supporting other national partner organizations to provide accreditation readiness support through tools and training, and offering direct support to health departments seeking accreditation and reaccreditation.
- **Workforce placements** through programs like CDC's Public Health Associate Program. Associates may be assigned to health departments pursuing and maintaining accreditation.
- **Staff support and programmatic connections** by engaging experts from programs across CDC and other federal partners to continuously improve the accreditation program.