

PHHS BLOCK GRANT SUCCESS STORY 2016

OFFICE OF QUALITY PERFORMANCE AND ACCREDITATION

LEARNING COLLABORATIVES ARE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL APPROACHES TO PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION.

Issue: California is making gains to “advance the quality and performance of public health” across the State. This is evidenced by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) awarding national accreditation to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local health departments in Ventura, San Diego, Orange, Santa Clara, Long Beach, Humboldt, and Pasadena.

These accredited departments serve moderate to large populations and possess adequate resources to pursue accreditation. Small and rural jurisdictions, however, cite rigorous accreditation requirements and variable resources (staffing and funding) as factors inhibiting participation. These barriers influence a department's decision to either (1) pursue accreditation as an evidence-based framework to critically evaluate its services, or (2) miss an opportunity to highlight areas of strength and opportunities for improvement that may impact population health outcomes.

Intervention: To mitigate barriers affecting accreditation preparation and deliver capacity-building interventions, the California Gaining Ground Coalition (CGGC) was established with support from the National Network of Public Health Institutes and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The CGGC, composed of state, local, tribal, and county associations and community partners, is committed to implementing a cross-jurisdictional model that leverages resources and advances the accreditation readiness of small, rural, and tribal public health departments in need of additional support.

The CDPH Office of Quality Performance and Accreditation (OQPA) PHHS Block Grant-funded staff, in collaboration with CGGC, developed two regional Learning Collaboratives to provide accreditation readiness technical assistance to California's small and rural jurisdictions. During these monthly webinar meetings and a culminating learning summit, up to 14 departments:

- Developed and strengthened relationships.
- Boosted motivation to plan for accreditation.
- Increased knowledge of accreditation standards and requirements.
- Shared tools, resources, and best practices relating to (1) community health assessment and improvement, (2) quality improvement, (3) performance management, and (4) strategic planning.

Impact: These regional Learning Collaboratives provided engaging forums to (1) increase knowledge of the accreditation process, (2) derive strategies to advance health department capacity, and (3) expand networks of support across jurisdictions.

This collaborative approach, coupled with ongoing technical assistance from the OQPA PHHS Block Grant-funded staff, supports moving forward together to pursue national public health accreditation in California.