

# Advancing Accreditation: Improving Health Department Capacity and Performance

## CDC's Role in Supporting Accreditation

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*Moving Forward Together: California's Journey to Public Health Accreditation*

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

*Video*

# CDC's Role in Accreditation Support

- ❑ PHAB—partner and funder
- ❑ National partner organizations
  - ❑ Technical assistance, educational resources, and trainings
  - ❑ Accreditation Support Initiatives
- ❑ Advancing readiness in the field through funding support or other CDC opportunities
- ❑ Establishing incentives—for preparing and for accreditation status
- ❑ Building connections to CDC-supported areas and funding streams



# National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII): Program at a Glance

- Key objectives:
  - Accelerate public health accreditation readiness
  - Improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness through quality improvement activities
  - Increase performance management capacity
- Establish a national network of Performance Improvement Managers (PIM Network)



**FY2010: \$42.5M to 76 awardees**

**FY2011: \$33.6M to 74 awardees**

**FY2012: \$33.5M to 73 awardees**

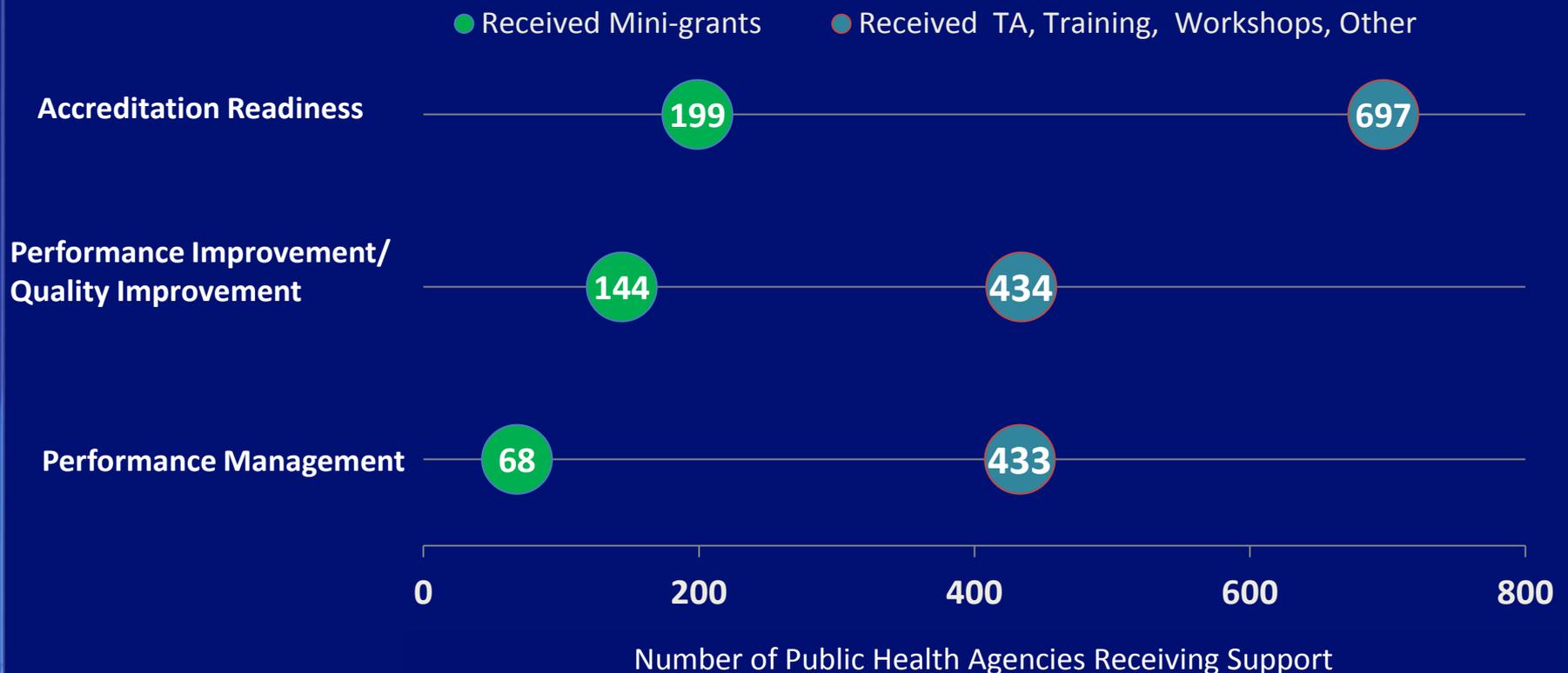
**FY2013: \$32.5M to 73 awardees**

Supported through the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the [Affordable Care Act](#)

[www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/nphii](http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/nphii)

# Support to Other Public Health Agencies

Non-awardee agencies received indirect support to conduct NPHII-related activities; 52% of awardees used NPHII funds to provide this support (n=68)\*



\* Year 4 APR

National Public Health Improvement Initiative Evaluation Data, 2015

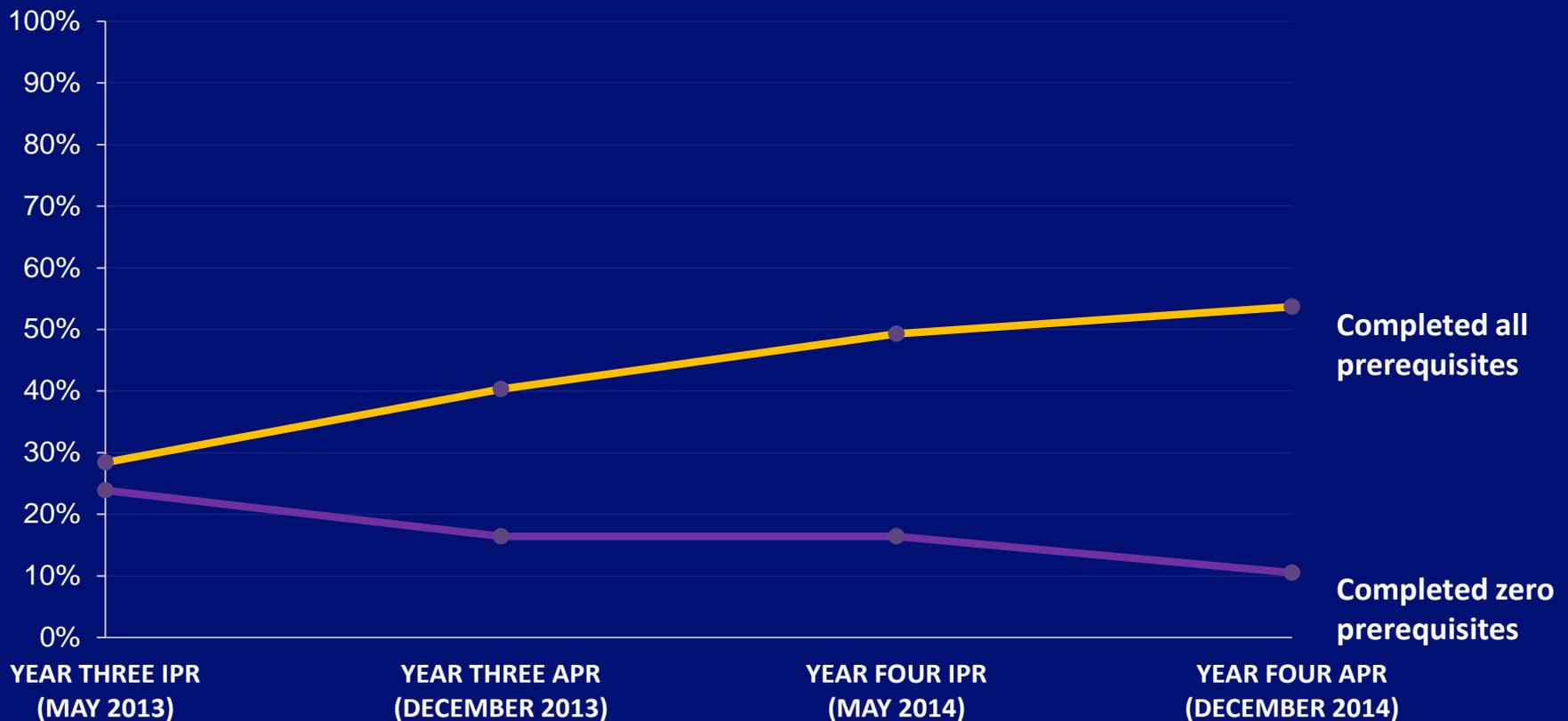
**Top Ten Things YOU Can Do  
(that take advantage of what  
we at CDC are doing)**

**10. Use accreditation and the standards as your blueprint (*even if you are months or years away from being ready to apply*)**

- ❑ Work toward meeting the national standards.
- ❑ Cross-compare efforts with elements described.
- ❑ Document what you are doing!

# Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Prerequisites\*

By end of the program, more than half of awardees (54%) completed **all three** prerequisites (n=67). 90% had completed at least one.



\*Strategic plan, health assessment, and health improvement plan

National Public Health Improvement Initiative Evaluation Data, 2015

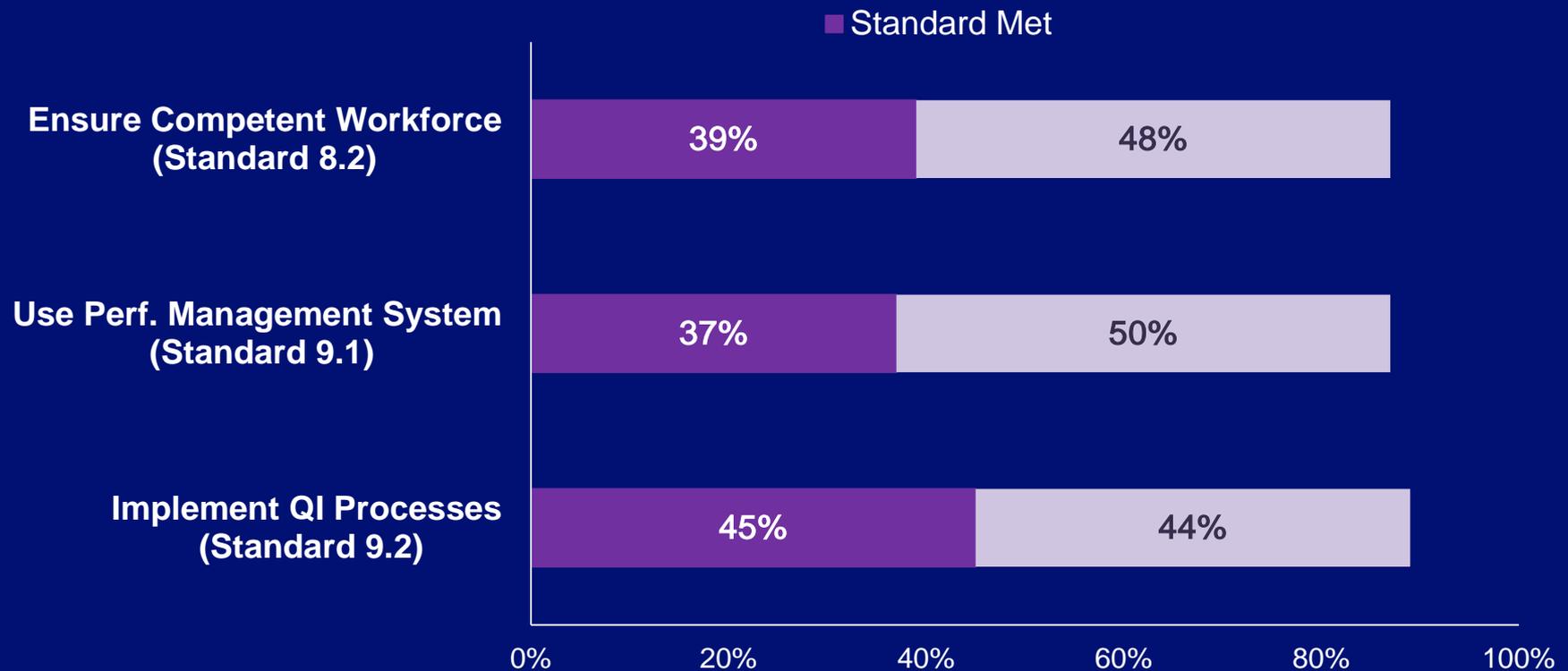
## Organizational Self-Assessment Against PHAB Standards and Measures

**86%** of awardees completed a self-assessment against the PHAB Standards and Measures by the end of NPHII (n=62/72)

**77%** of those awardees closed gaps for at least one standard (n=48/62)

# Organizational Self-Assessment Against PHAB Standards and Measures

The least frequent standards met by awardees that completed a self-assessment (n=62) were standards 8.2, 9.1, and 9.2.

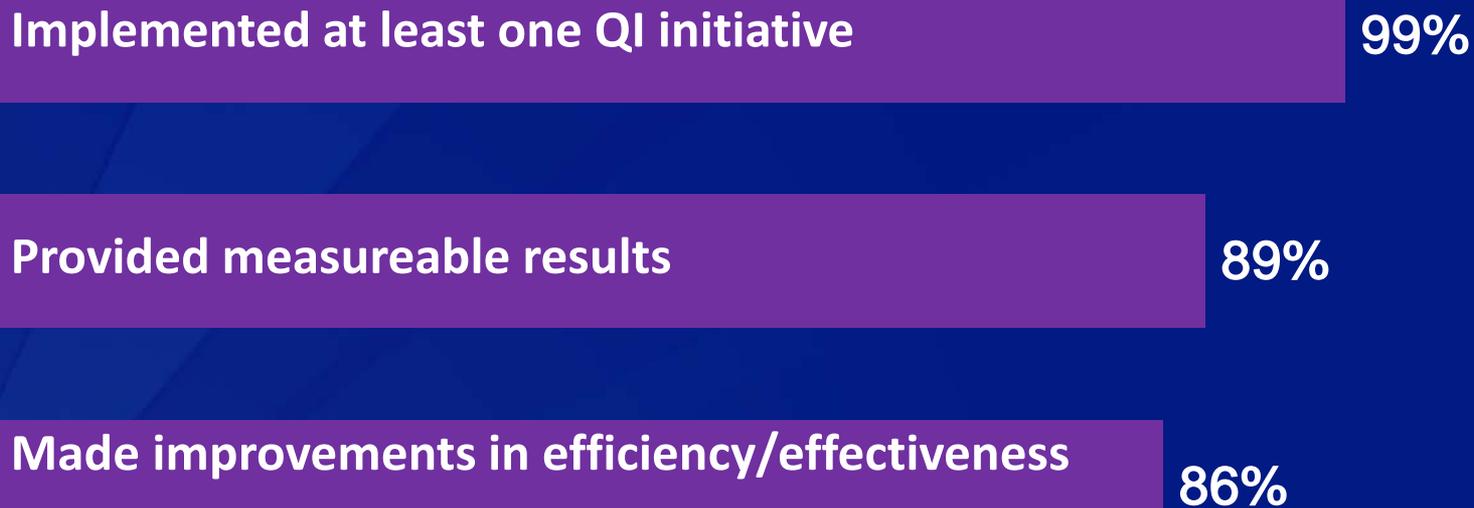


National Public Health Improvement Initiative Evaluation Data, 2015

**9. Look for and implement opportunities for quality improvement (QI)**

# Implementing QI Initiatives

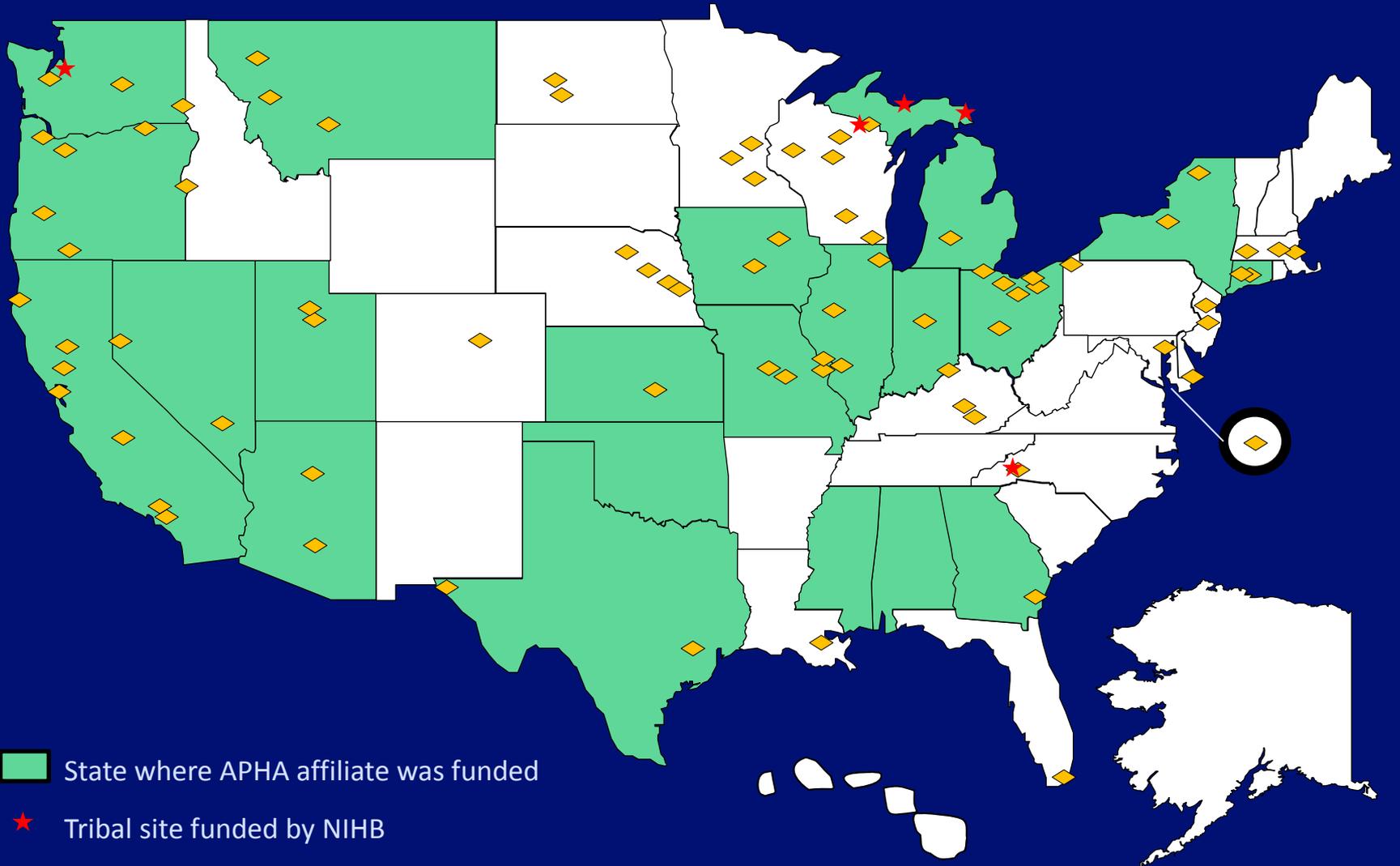
Of the 72 awardees, all but one implemented a QI initiative, and most demonstrated improvements in efficiency and/or effectiveness outcomes.



## **8. Apply for funding through our Accreditation Support Initiatives (ASIs)**

- ❑ Funding from CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support through national partners:**
  - NACCHO—focusing on local health departments
  - APHA—affiliate organizations
  - NIHB—tribal health departments
- ❑ Small amounts of funding to advance accreditation readiness**
- ❑ Successes:**
  - Of the 79 local sites that have been funded and are eligible for accreditation, 13 have achieved accreditation
  - APHA affiliates have increased the availability of accreditation learning opportunities
  - Peer learning communities have been established
  - Tools and resources have been developed and shared

# ASI Sites 2011–2015



-  State where APHA affiliate was funded
-  Tribal site funded by NIHB
-  Local site, tribal site, or organization funded by NACCHO

## 7. Apply to serve as a host site with the CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP)

- ❑ Seeking win-win connections through
  - PHAP placements and work plans
  - National accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)
- ❑ 2013 and 2014 PHAP classes
  - Selected associates supporting accreditation readiness
  - 30 total placements in accredited health departments
- ❑ Current/future opportunities
  - Prioritizing host site applications focused on accreditation and quality improvement preparedness (2015 and future)
  - Accreditation status—query on host site application and to be considered as selection criteria

## 6. Seek connections between accreditation and existing/new funding

- ❑ Standard templates and guidance for Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) since FY13
- ❑ Accreditation language included in organizational capacity statement and Budget Narrative Guidance
  - “(Applicants) may, if consistent with statutory authority, use funds for activities, as they relate to the intent of this FOA, to meet national standards and/or seek health department accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.”
- ❑ Fact sheet available at  
[www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation](http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation)
- ❑ Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant

**5. Build awareness for accreditation—up, down and sideways—within your organization and community and among peers**

# Accreditation—Making Strategic and Programmatic Connections

- ❑ How are programs and services reflected in PHAB standards?
- ❑ How can funded programmatic activities aid in meeting PHAB standards?
- ❑ How can PHAB standards provide the right foundation for strong programmatic work?



# Examples of Programmatic and Strategic Connections

- ❑ PHS Block Grant
- ❑ Healthy People 2020
- ❑ Preparedness\*
- ❑ Chronic disease programs
- ❑ Maternal and child health
- ❑ Environmental public health\*
- ❑ Laboratories
- ❑ Infectious disease
- ❑ Immunizations\*
- ❑ Occupational safety and health\*
- ❑ Informatics
- ❑ Community health assessment/planning
- ❑ Healthcare-associated infections\*
- ❑ Food safety\*
- ❑ Health literacy
- ❑ Guide to Community Preventive Services\*
- ❑ National Prevention Strategy
- ❑ HHS quality aims and characteristics\*

*\*Crosswalk developed or in progress*

**4. Keep up with new or updated technical assistance resources from national partner organizations (NACCHO, ASTHO, NIHB, PHF, NNPHI, APHA, etc.)**

**3. Engage in national and state conversations. Volunteer to serve on committees or as a site visitor.**

## 2. Stay aware of the evolving landscape and issues driving changes in public health practice

- ❑ Areas to watch:
  - Informatics
  - Health equity and social determinants of health
  - Health system transformation and public health/healthcare integration
  - Financing—core services and health services financing
  - Foundational capabilities
  - Many others!
  
- ❑ Changes in public health bring changes in national standards...and vice versa

# 1. Share ideas with us regarding possible new incentives—especially incentives for accreditation status

- ❑ Incentives can provide a clear benefit OR remove a barrier to applying (funding, TA, etc.)
- ❑ Types of incentives
  - For preparation
  - For accreditation status
- ❑ Source of incentives
  - Federal (CDC and other)
  - State
  - Other (foundations, other such as the STAR Community Rating Program)
- ❑ Current incentives in place
- ❑ Future—frequently mentioned ideas, other?

## Top Ten Things YOU Can Do (that take advantage of what WE are doing)

10. Work toward meeting the national standards. Cross-compare efforts with elements described. Document what you are doing! *(Even if you are months or years away from being ready to apply)*
9. Look for and implement opportunities for quality improvement
8. Apply for funding through our local, tribal, and/or APHA-affiliate Accreditation Support Initiatives (ASI)
7. Apply to serve as a host site with the CDC Public Health Associate Program (PHAP)
6. Seek connections between accreditation and existing/new funding

## Top Ten Things YOU Can Do

5. Build awareness for accreditation—up, down and sideways—within your organization and community and among peers
4. Keep up with new or updated technical assistance resources from national partner organizations (NACCHO, ASTHO, NIHB, PHF, NNPHI, APHA, etc.)
3. Engage in national and state conversations. Volunteer to serve on committees or as a site visitor.
2. Stay aware of the evolving landscape and issues driving changes in public health practice
1. Share ideas with us regarding possible new incentives—especially incentives for accreditation status

# Questions?

For more information, please contact CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support

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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



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