

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
Tuberculosis Control Branch  
Program Liaison Fact Sheet



**Program Liaison Mission Statement:** *To assist local health departments in developing and maintaining effective tuberculosis (TB) control programs by providing technical assistance.*

### **Background**

California continues to report the greatest number of cases to the nation's total TB morbidity. The majority of the cases occur among foreign-born or disadvantaged populations. While most cases occur in the larger urban areas, rural and smaller communities also experience significant challenges in managing sudden outbreaks or cases of multi-drug resistant disease. Tuberculosis control in California is complex because of the size, diversity, and mobility of the population.

California has 61 local health jurisdictions (LHJs), each with independent authority and responsibility for TB prevention and control. Local health jurisdictions vary significantly in their population, geography, TB morbidity, organizational structure, staffing patterns, and funding sources. As a result, each LHJ experiences unique challenges in their efforts to control TB. To protect and improve the health of all, the state Tuberculosis Control Branch (TBCB) provides leadership and resources to control and eliminate TB.

### **TBCB Program Liaison Role**

The program liaison (PL) role has been established for nearly a decade to facilitate communication between individuals working at the state and local level to enhance TB control efforts. A PL is assigned to work with each LHJ within a region of counties in California.

### **Primary Responsibilities of the Program**

#### **Liaison with LHJs**

##### **Facilitates communication between TBCB and LHJs**

- Serves as a frontline source of communication between local and state TB programs
- Facilitates understanding of changes in TB guidelines, programs, state legislation, and policies
- Conducts periodic site visits to learn about individual program needs and assist the LHJ in meeting these needs.
- Participates in regional TB meetings

##### **Provides consultation/technical assistance to LHJs**

- Provides phone consultation on patient case management, contact investigation, and programmatic concerns
- Refers staff to available resource and training centers
- Assists in outbreak investigations or expanded contact investigations
- Assists in local staff trainings
- Together with other TBCB staff, facilitates continuity of care for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees, reviews and approves requests for reimbursement of civil detentions and placement into regional civil detention sites and isolation facilities

**Facilitates and assists with local program evaluation and improvement activities**

- Assists with the Tuberculosis Indicators Project (TIP), or other program evaluation activities using state and local data, including development and implementation of action plans
- Participates in local strategic planning or management team meetings
- Consults on quality improvement activities such as case conferencing to ensure implementation of practice standards for TB case management and contact investigation

**Supports the appropriate use of TBCB funds provided to LHJs**

- Reviews requests for funding to ensure that funds are allocated to priority activities in TB control
- Informs key decision makers at the state and national levels about the changing needs and challenges of TB control at the local level

**Provides consultation and oversight of TB control efforts in correctional facilities including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

- Assists with the coordination and oversight of TB control efforts within correctional facilities through consultation, facilitating communication and providing technical assistance to local health jurisdictions, correctional facilities, TBCB and other state agencies
- Works with LHJs, federal agencies and CureTB, to facilitate medical holds and stays of removal for TB patients held in ICE custody to ensure continuity of care prior to deportation