The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

June 24, 2022

Overview

The Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies) reflect foundational or crosscutting knowledge and skills for professionals engaged in the practice, education, and research of public health. Guidance for Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) efforts related to the Core Competencies is provided by the Core Competencies Workgroup, which includes members representing a variety of practice and academic organizations and interests within the public health field. The Core Competencies were recently revised, with the current version completed in October 2021.

Core Competencies Use

The Core Competencies are widely used within public health workforce development efforts across the US. Data from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Indian Health Board, and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) show that approximately 80% of state health departments, 60% of Tribal health organizations, 45% of local health departments, and 25% of territorial health departments use the Core Competencies. So far in 2022, the Core Competencies and resources and tools designed to support implementation have been accessed online more than 48,000 times, with more than 31,000 visits to the Core Competencies webpage since the 2021 version was released. Council staff have responded to 17 requests for assistance with the Core Competencies, serving 14 organizations in 11 states.

Dissemination of the 2021 Core Competencies

The 2021 Core Competencies have been available through the Council website since November 2021, and dissemination activities are underway to ensure the public health community is aware of and has access to this latest version for workforce development efforts. The Core Competencies were shared during sessions at the Public Health Improvement Training in June 2022, and will also be introduced during a session at the 2022 NACCHO360 Conference in July. *Introducing the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals: Crosscutting Skills for a High-Performing Workforce* will be available on demand to conference attendees and will include presentations from Council staff as well as Elizabeth Rumbel, MA, Senior Workforce Development Specialist at the Public Health Institute at Denver Health (CO). In addition to these events, information has been shared through the Council and Public Health Foundation websites, newsletters, and social media, as well as those of partner organizations.

Dissemination activities will continue over the coming months, and suggestions of activities or potential audiences for outreach are welcome. Ideas may be shared at any time by email to Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Resources and Tools for Implementing the Core Competencies

Since the release of the 2021 Core Competencies, attention has also been on updating and developing resources and tools that support individuals and organizations in implementing the Core Competencies. Work began with developing resources and tools that will help with the transition from the 2014 to 2021 version of the Core Competencies, as well as updating existing resources and tools that support use of the Core Competencies to reflect the changes that have been made in the new version of the competency set. Updated versions of the existing

competency assessments have been created based on the 2021 Core Competencies, and the 2021 Core Competencies are now available on the TRAIN Learning Network. A crosswalk showing how the specific statements within the 2014 and 2021 versions relate to each other is under development, and work has begun on developing a short video or slide set that introduces the Core Competencies, updating a competency prioritization tool, and updating a set of FAQs related to the Core Competencies.

Development of additional resources and tools based on feedback from the public health community and other needs identified is also being explored, and input on resources and tools that would help support use of the Core Competencies is welcome. Suggestions may be shared by emailing Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Additional information about activities related to the Core Competencies can be found through the Core Competencies section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.