



Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

March 1, 2024

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 most recent version of the Core Competencies was revised and approved by the Council in October 2021.

Core Competencies Use

The Core Competencies are widely used within public health workforce development efforts across the US. Data show that approximately [80% of state health departments](#), [60% of Tribal health organizations](#), [55% of local health departments](#), and [25% of territorial health departments](#) use the Core Competencies. Since the last Council meeting, the Core Competencies and resources and tools designed to support implementation have been accessed online more than 21,000 times, with about 170,000 visits to the Core Competencies webpages since the 2021 version was released. In the same time period since the last Council meeting, Council staff have responded to 6 requests for assistance with the Core Competencies, serving 6 organizations in 4 states and the United Arab Emirates.

Conferences

The Core Competencies were recently highlighted at the [Open Forum: Next Generation Conference](#) in September 2023 (*Applying the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals to Support Workforce Development*) and during the [Public Health Learning Forum and TRAIN Annual Meeting](#) held in October 2023, as a plenary session (*Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals*).

Resources and Tools for Implementing the Core Competencies

Work to update and develop resources and tools to support individuals and organizations in implementing the Core Competencies is ongoing. The [Crosswalk of the 2021 and 2014 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) has been made available. The 2021 Core Competencies have also been added to the [TRAIN Learning Network](#) as a search filter, allowing course providers to identify which of these competencies their trainings help build and learners to locate trainings that address specific competencies. An updated [competency prioritization tool](#) that supports organizations in identifying the most important Core Competencies for different public health jobs is available, as well as [domain definitions](#) to describe the contents of each 2021 Core Competencies domain. These tools are available on the Council website and can be found on the newly updated [Core Competencies Tools page](#).

A new resource describing the relationship between the 2021 Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals, 10 Essential Public Health Services (EPHS), and Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) is currently being developed and will be made available soon. Input on resources and tools to support the use of the Core Competencies is welcomed and may be shared by emailing Mayela Arana at marana@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 Mayela Arana at marana@phf.org.