



Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

February 20, 2025

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 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](#), [43% of Tribal health organizations](#), [55% of local health departments](#), and 25% of territorial health departments use the Core Competencies. Since the release of the 2021 version, Council staff have responded to 100 requests for assistance with the Core Competencies, serving 70 organizations in 29 states, DC, Canada, China, Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Numerous tools and resources have been developed and presentations and workshops delivered to raise awareness about the Core Competencies and assist public health professionals and organizations in using the Core Competencies for workforce development.

Webinars and Conferences

In October 2024 the Core Competencies were highlighted as part of the 2024 [Public Health Learning Forum: Workforce Development in Action](#) in a session on using the Core Competencies and TRAIN Learning Network for workforce development activities. [Session recordings](#) are available on the TRAIN Learning Network.

Resources and Tools for Implementing the Core Competencies

Efforts to update and develop resources and tools to support individuals and organizations in implementing the Core Competencies is ongoing. These resources and tools are available on the Council website and can be found on the updated [Core Competencies Tools page](#). Input on resources and tools to support use of the Core Competencies is welcome and may be shared by emailing Mayela Arana at marana@phf.org.

Recently, Council staff agreed to collaborate with the [National Board of Public Health Examiners](#) to identify the Certified in Public Health credential skill areas that are addressed by the Core Competencies and to identify the gaps. This work will take place in 2025 with updates shared with the Council as the work progresses.

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.