



Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

July 17, 2017

Overview

The [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) (Core Competencies) reflect foundational skills desirable for professionals engaged in the practice, education, and research of public health and are used in education, training, and other workforce development activities across the country. The [current version of the Core Competencies](#) was released by the [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council) in June 2014.

New Tool: Determining Essential Core Competencies for Public Health Jobs

Widely applicable to the variety of jobs found within public health, the Core Competencies can be used for identifying competencies to be included in [competency-based job descriptions](#). For any given job, the critical competencies within the Core Competencies will vary depending on the responsibilities and activities of individuals in that position. When developing a job description, it is important to determine which competencies are most essential for that position. The recently developed tool, [Determining Essential Core Competencies for Public Health Jobs: A Prioritization Process](#), describes a process for prioritizing competencies for job descriptions using a modified version of the Core Competencies. A public health organization can use this process in a workshop setting to help engage staff members to identify and prioritize the Core Competencies that they feel are most important for their roles.

The [Core Competencies Workgroup](#) continues to focus on resources and tools to support use of the Core Competencies, including enhancing collections of [job descriptions](#) and [workforce development plans](#) that incorporate the Core Competencies. Examples that can be added to either of these collections, as well as other examples of how the Core Competencies are being used, are welcome by email to Janelle Nichols at jnichols@phf.org.

Demonstrating Impact

The Core Competencies are the most widely used product of the Council, and the impact of this product can be demonstrated in a number of ways. Since the current version of the Core Competencies was released in June 2014, the Core Competencies have been accessed nearly 137,000 times, and resources and tools related to the Core Competencies have been accessed an additional 261,300 times. For FY2017 (July 2016-June 2017), these access numbers are more than 44,000 for the Core Competencies and nearly 90,500 for related resources and tools. Technical assistance related to the Core Competencies is provided on a distance basis; Council staff responded to more than 50 requests in FY17, serving nearly 40 organizations in 23 states, Guam, and Nepal. The four blog posts published on the [PHF Pulse](#) blog in FY17 were viewed nearly 1,300 times, and the recent webinar on [Determining Essential Core Competencies for Job Positions](#) was attended by nearly 200 participants. Trends in these data can also be tracked over time. For example, online access of the Core Competencies and related resources and tools has increased from approximately 16,000 views in FY11 to more than 134,500 views in FY17. Visual illustrations of these data are provided in the meeting materials. As Council leadership and staff work to better highlight the impact of Council activities such as the Core Competencies, input is welcome on the types of data or examples that can help illustrate the reach and use of these products. Suggestions may be shared with Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Core Competencies Workgroup Members

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