



Discipline-specific Competencies

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Overview

The [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#) (Core Competencies) has been a major initiative of the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) for over two decades. During this time, Council staff has developed expertise in this area and has assisted numerous organizations in developing and refining discipline-specific competencies that are aligned with the Core Competencies. These include discipline-specific competencies such as the [Quad Council Competencies for Public Health Nurses](#). More recently, requests for assistance from Council staff have dramatically increased, as have requests for Council review of new sets of discipline-specific competencies.

Assistance in Developing, Refining, and Implementing Discipline-specific Competencies

Council staff currently is assisting organizations in developing, refining, and implementing competencies for public health laboratorians, public health professionals working with people with disabilities, and community health workers. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has requested Council involvement in developing two new sets of competencies: 1) [Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals](#); and 2) [Population Health Competencies for Hospitals and Health Systems](#). The Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals will help articulate desired skills and competencies for individuals working primarily in state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments who have responsibility for quality improvement, performance management, accreditation, and related activities. The Population Health Competencies are being designed for individuals in healthcare settings who have responsibility for population health work in communities, such as developing Community Health Needs Assessments.

Representatives from CDC will talk with the Council about the two new competencies development activities. Some of the funding from CDC for the Council is being used for staff to work on these initiatives and to request feedback from Council members about these competency sets.