



Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

November 29, 2018

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. Council efforts related to the Core Competencies are guided by the [Core Competencies Workgroup](#), which has more than 90 members representing a variety of practice and academic organizations and interests within the public health field.

Core Competencies Activities and Accomplishments for 2018

Activities related to supporting use of the Core Competencies continued in 2018, with sustained usage of the Core Competencies and tools, training, and technical assistance being provided. The following summary details activities and accomplishments for 2018.

Usage of the Core Competencies

- To date in 2018, the Core Competencies have been accessed more than 38,000 times, and resources and tools that support use of the Core Competencies have been accessed more than 48,000 times. This brings online usage of the Core Competencies and related resources and tools since the current version of the Core Competencies was released to more than 557,000 visits, including nearly 197,000 for the Core Competencies and more than 360,000 for related resources and tools.
- The most popular Core Competencies resources and tools continue to be [competency assessments](#) and collections of [job descriptions](#), [examples of how organizations use the Core Competencies](#), and [workforce development plans](#).

Tools and Resources Related to the Core Competencies

- To supplement the existing [competency assessments](#), which are among the most accessed Core Competencies resources, an assessment is being developed based on the [modified version of the Core Competencies](#) released in 2017. The modified version of the Core Competencies is based on Tier 2 of the Core Competencies and groups competencies that share a common theme together to reduce the number of individual items to focus on in workforce development efforts.
- A second popular resource, the [collection of examples of how organizations use the Core Competencies](#), is being redesigned and expanded. The single existing webpage will be replaced with a microsite with these stories and examples to better highlight workforce development efforts and share knowledge from those initiatives. Stories and examples for this resource are welcome by email to Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.
- Core Competencies resources and tools were featured in a [presentation](#) at the [2018 American Public Health Association \(APHA\) Annual Meeting](#) attended by approximately 30 participants, and a workshop based on the [Determining Essential Core Competencies for Public Health Jobs: A Prioritization Process](#) tool released in 2017 will be conducted at the [2019 Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation](#).

Additional Highlights

- Council staff responded to more than 40 technical assistance requests, serving approximately 30 organizations in 20 states, DC, Australia, and Ethiopia.
- Seven blog posts highlighting work with connections to the Core Competencies were published on the PHF Pulse blog and viewed more than 3,300 times.
- Council staff met with the team working on the Public Health Infrastructure (PHI) topic area of Healthy People 2030 to provide input into PHI objectives. Planning is currently underway for Healthy People 2030, and it is anticipated that proposed objectives will include at least one related to use of the Core Competencies in continuing education.

Discipline-Specific Competency Sets

In addition to supporting development of foundational skills for professionals working in public health, the Core Competencies support the development of discipline-specific competency sets. A variety of competency sets have drawn on the Core Competencies or the expertise of Council staff or Core Competencies Workgroup members in their development and implementation, including the [Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals in Public Health](#), [Competencies for Population Health Professionals](#), and [Community/Public Health Nursing Competencies](#). Progress related to these three competency sets in 2018 is summarized below.

Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals in Public Health

- The [Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals in Public Health](#) (PI Competencies), a set of skills desirable for performance improvement (PI) professionals working in public health, were released in June by the [Public Health Foundation](#) (PHF). Designed to be used along with the Core Competencies, these competencies offer additional guidance in PI for public health professionals with responsibilities related to quality improvement, performance management, workforce development, accreditation readiness, or community health assessment and improvement planning.
- To support public health professionals and organizations in using the PI Competencies, a [supplemental resource](#) that presents the PI Competencies along with a list of competencies from the Core Competencies that may be especially relevant for PI professionals was developed.
- Since release in June, the PI Competencies have been accessed online more than 2,200 times and the supplemental resource nearly 800 times.
- A [webinar](#) introducing the PI Competencies was held in November and attended by more than 320 participants. The PI Competencies were also featured in a [session](#) at the [National Association of County and City Health Officials Annual 2018](#) attended by more than 80 participants and a [presentation](#) at the 2018 APHA Annual Meeting attended by approximately 40 participants.
- Work on the PI Competencies is guided by the [Performance Improvement Competencies Subgroup](#) of the Core Competencies Workgroup, which has grown to more than 85 members.

Competencies for Population Health Professionals

- A final draft of the [Competencies for Population Health Professionals](#) (Population Health Competencies), a set of skills desirable for population health professionals, was completed by PHF in October. Based on the Core Competencies, these competencies are primarily designed for hospital, health system, public health, and healthcare professionals engaged in assessment of population health needs and development, delivery, and improvement of population health programs, services, and practices.

- The Population Health Competencies are expected to be released in the near future, and a training plan focused on social determinants of health is currently under development for the [TRAIN Learning Network](#).
- The Population Health Competencies were featured in a [presentation](#) at the 2018 APHA Annual Meeting attended by approximately 35 participants.

Community/Public Health Nursing Competencies

- In June, the [Quad Council Coalition of Public Health Nursing Organizations](#) (Quad Council Coalition) released the [2018 Community/Public Health Nursing \(C/PHN\) Competencies](#), which were updated to align with the current version of the Core Competencies, as well as a variety of other related nursing competencies. The C/PHN Competencies reflect the unique competencies required for the practice of public health nursing and can be used by public health nurses from entry-level to senior management/leadership in a variety of practice settings.
- To accompany the C/PHN Competencies, in November, the Quad Council Coalition released a [recorded educational webinar](#) describing the development of the competencies and strategies for disseminating and adopting these revised competencies. Council staff participated in this recorded webinar.

More information about activities and accomplishments related to the Core Competencies is available through the [Core Competencies](#) section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Core Competencies Workgroup Members

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