Accreditation

Implementing A Voluntary National Program for U.S. State and Local Public Health Departments
National Accreditation

Common objective of assuring that health departments meet a set of standards and measures to continuously improve their performance.

A national public health department accreditation system has been developed because of the desire to continuously improve the quality of service and accountability of health departments to their stakeholders.
Accreditation demonstrates the capacity of the public health department to deliver the **three core functions** and the **ten essential services** of public health:
Background

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) identified accreditation as a key strategy for strengthening the public health infrastructure.

2003: NACCHO, using the 10 Essential Public Health Services framework, developed a consensus of what basic public health protections all citizens can reasonably expect from their Local Public Health Agency.

2011: PHAB released “Guide to National Public Health Accreditation” and Fee Schedule.
PHAB

• PHAB is the national accrediting organization for public health departments. A nonprofit organization, PHAB is dedicated to advancing the continuous quality improvement of Tribal, state, local, and territorial public health departments. PHAB is working to promote and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of all public health departments in the United States through national accreditation.

• Its vision is a high-performing governmental public health system that will make us a healthier nation.
The PHAB accreditation process consists of seven steps:

1. Pre-application
2. Application
3. Documentation Selection and Submission
4. Site Visit
5. Accreditation Decision
6. Reports
7. Reaccreditation
Brief requirements

• Community assessment and plan
• Strategic plan
• Domains, Standards, etc.
National Voluntary Accreditation Model

• Designed to:
  – Promote high performance and continuous quality improvement.
  – Recognize high performers that meet nationally accepted standards of quality.
  – Clarify public expectations of state and local health departments.
National Voluntary Accreditation Model

- Increase visibility & public awareness of governmental public health that will:
  - Increase public trust
  - Increase health department credibility/accountability
  - Increase potential for public health infrastructure funding
Nationally Accredited Health Departments:

**Illinois**

- Illinois Department of Public Health *(Chicago)*
- Champaign-Urbana Public Health District *(Champaign)*
- Chicago Department of Public Health *(Chicago)*
- Cook County Department of Public Health *(Oak Forest)*
- DuPage County Health Department *(Wheaton)*
- Kane County Health Department *(Aurora)*
- Kendall County Health Department *(Yorkville)*
- Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center *(Waukegan)*
- Peoria City/County Health Department *(Peoria)*
- St. Clair County Health Department *(Belleville)*
- Tazewell County Health Department *(Tremont)*
- Winnebago County Health Department *(Rockford)*