Strengthening the Nation’s Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce: A National Perspective

NHMA Hispanic Health Professional Leadership Network
Organizational Training Calls

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Content

• Overview of the Public Health Infrastructure Center
• Partnerships to Advance Public Health
• Public Health Workforce
• Folic Acid
CDC Moving Forward

CDC Moving Forward Core Areas of Improvement

• Share Scientific Findings and Data Faster
• Translate Science into Practical, Easy to Understand Policy
• Prioritize Public Health Communications
• Develop a Diverse Workforce Prepared for Future Emergencies - CDC and Nationwide
• Promote Results-based Partnerships
• Enhance Laboratory Science and Quality
• Integrate Health Equity
• Modernize Data
Overview of the Public Health Infrastructure Center
Public Health Infrastructure Center is one of the center pieces of CDC Moving Forward. The new center:

• **Creates** a hub of information, support, resources, and engagement for with local health departments and public health partners

• **Focuses** on the big picture of public health and work to strengthen every part of the nation’s vast and complex public health network
Mission
To improve public health outcomes by strengthening the public health infrastructure and workforce of the United States.

Public Health Infrastructure is made up of the people, services, and systems needed to promote and protect health in every U.S. community.
To strengthen the public's health through effective and efficient delivery of public health infrastructure and workforce development services.

**Primary Functions**

- Jurisdictional Support
  - Division of Jurisdictional Support

- Partnerships & Technical Assistance
  - Division of Partnership Support

- Workforce Development
  - Division of Workforce Development
Organizational Structure

Office of Rural Health

Office of the Director

Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances

Division of Jurisdictional Support
- Program Services and Innovation Branch
- Public Health Infrastructure Capacity Building and Strategic Resource Management Branch
- Program Services and Innovation Branch

Division of Partnership Support
- Partnership Resources Management Branch
- Partnerships and Systems Improvement Branch

Division of Workforce Development
- Education and Training Services Branch
- Epidemiology Workforce Branch
- Population Health Workforce Branch
- Public Health Associate Program Branch
The Center’s Approach

**Customer Service**
Advances new ways of serving jurisdictions and tribes to reduce administrative burden, strengthen peer-to-peer technical assistance, advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and further our shared public health goals.

**Evaluation and Performance Management**
Evaluates and assesses the center’s services and programs to identify best practices, build evidence base and continually improve programs and services.

**Partnerships**
Promotes results-based partnerships by leveraging partners to support jurisdictions, improving service to funded partners, and reducing barriers to partnering with CDC.

**Collaboration across the Agency**
Serves as a champion for enterprise solutions through collaboration across CDC programs to advance a cohesive, efficient approach to supporting jurisdictions, tribes, and partners.
Partnerships to Advance Public Health
Partnerships with Public Health Organizations

National Partnership Coordination
39 recipients of a five-year funding opportunity

Cooperative Agreement Management
CDC is making changes to **better serve** and strengthen the nation’s public health system through **shared stewardship** with partners and health departments.
Hispanic representation should be at every level of decision-making.

CDC Partnership with the Puerto Rican Organization for Community Education and Economic Development (PROCEED):

Key Lessons:
- Collaboration among leading Latinx organizations leads to greater impact for Latinx communities
- Coalition building requires shared leadership and guidance to be effective; support for a “backbone” organization is critical to maintain momentum toward achieving common goals
- Bilingual, bicultural information and health literacy needs to be centered in health messaging
- Collaborations should be intentional with the goal of long-term work-building trust
- Investment in the capacity of Latinx community-based organizations leads to great returns for community and public health
Collaboration is Key

We rely on all of you, your organizations, and your members to bring the **expertise**, **strengths**, and **abilities** to help our collective public health network to meet challenges.

**Accomplishments Supporting the Hispanic/Latino Community:**

- **"Interactive Summary Health Statistics for Adults, by Detailed Race and Ethnicity" Tool:**
  - Launched in 2023
  - Estimates can be generated for an additional six Hispanic subgroups: Central American, Cuban, Dominican, Puerto Rican, South American, and Other Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish adults

- **CDC's Project Firstline:**
  - Launched Spanish website with 72+ resources in fiscal year 2023
  - In over 8 months, the site received 11,000+ views, 4,000+ link clicks, and was featured in major Spanish news syndications
  - Works with NHMA to provide resources for Hispanic physicians
  - NHMA works with Salud America! to highlight stories of frontline healthcare workers

- **NOFO PS23-006:**
  - Announced in 2023
  - An opportunity to identify drivers of medical mistrust in Hispanic/Latino populations in the U.S., with special attention to gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, and (2) address this social determinant of health by implementing and evaluating multilevel interventions in selected sites
3

Public Health Workforce
Decades of Underinvestment

Over the past decade, the public health workforce has shrunk by approximately 56,000 positions primarily due to funding issues.

—Trust for America’s Health (2020)

The U.S. needs to hire a minimum of 80,000 more full-time equivalents (FTEs) in state and local governmental public health departments—an increase of 80 percent—to provide adequate infrastructure and minimum public health services to the nation.

—Staffing Up: Determining Public Health Workforce Levels Needed to Serve the Nation (2021)
Strengthening U.S. Public Health Infrastructure, Workforce, and Data Systems Grant

107 jurisdictions received funding

50 States
22 Cities (incl. DC)
27 Counties
5 Territories
3 Freely Associated States

Workforce
Recruit, retain, support, and train the public health workforce

Foundational Capabilities
Strengthen systems, processes, and policies

Data Modernization
Deploy scalable, flexible, and sustainable technologies

Partners Funded:

Budget period start:
December 1, 2022

Period of performance:
5 years/60 months

3 Partners funded with Component B:
Training, evaluation, and coordination support for grantees $65 Million and an additional $90 Million to support Data Modernization

Full funding details: https://www.cdc.gov/infrastructure/phig/
The Public Health Infrastructure Center’s Division of Workforce Development provides leadership for **recruiting, training, developing, and retaining** the nation’s public health workforce.

**Prospective public health professionals:**
Establish and advance fellowship, internship, and training opportunities that are both multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary.

**Current public health professionals:**
Offer and promote quality training opportunities from CDC, other federal agencies, and federally funded partners.

**Health departments and public health partners:**
Provide capacity building/technical assistance, support/lead efforts to build the evidence-base for public health workforce planning/development, collaborate with partners.

**CDC programs:**
Ensure efforts are coordinated and strategic agency-wide.
CDC Supports Paths to Public Health Careers through Fellowships and Training Programs

### Fellowships and Training Opportunities

- **CDC.gov/fellowships**
  - 60+ fellowship programs across CDC
  - Centralized resource

#### Subtitle
Subscribe to the Fellowship Programs newsletter and envision your next big move as a fellow or intern at CDC.

Whether you are on a career track or deciding on which career you would like to pursue, CDC has many diverse fellowship, internship, training, and volunteer opportunities for students and professionals. Many of these opportunities provide invaluable experience and potentially offer clear cut paths to exciting careers with CDC.

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<td>Undergraduate Students</td>
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<td>Master's Degree Students</td>
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<th>Work Experience Opportunities</th>
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<td>Middle/High School Teachers</td>
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<th>Training &amp; Education</th>
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<td>We offer a variety of training and continuing education opportunities</td>
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Hispanic National Internship

CDC and Hispanic-Serving Institutions

A group of CDC HSI alumni gathered recently at Roybal campus. Photo credit: Brandon Clifton
Folic Acid Can Help Prevent Neural Tube Defects in Hispanic Communities
What are Neural Tube Defects (NTDs)?

NTDs are serious birth defects that affect the brain and spine.

Open spina bifida  Anencephaly

The neural tube closes before many women realize they are pregnant.

Taking folic acid before and during pregnancy is crucial to help prevent NTDs.
Hispanic/Latina Women in the U.S. Have the Highest Risk of Having a Baby Affected by an NTD

Hispanic women have lower folate levels than non-Hispanic White women and are less likely to take folic acid supplements.

Compared to non-Hispanic White women, Hispanic women are less likely to know about folic acid and eat fortified foods.

Fortification of corn masa flour could increase folic acid intake and reduce the number of neural tube defects among Hispanic/Latina Women.

Seven in 10,000 Hispanic births have a neural tube deficiency.
Folic acid is the **only** type of folate that has been shown to prevent NTDs.
Together, We Can Empower the Communities We Serve

Inform patients on the importance of folic acid

Initiate discussions with patients to encourage folic acid supplement intake and raise awareness

Educate patients on the benefits of fortified foods and how to identify them to ensure adequate folic acid intake

Tools you can use:

www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid
www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/hispanic-heritage-month.html