The Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice

Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals Report

March 31, 2022

Overview
The Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies) reflect foundational or crosscutting knowledge and skills for professionals engaged in the practice, education, and research of public health. Guidance for Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council) efforts related to the Core Competencies is provided by the Core Competencies Workgroup, which includes members representing a variety of practice and academic organizations and interests within the public health field. The Core Competencies were recently revised, with the current version completed in October 2021.

Core Competencies Use
The Core Competencies are widely used within public health workforce development efforts across the US. Data from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Indian Health Board, and National Association of County and City Health Officials show that approximately 80% of state health departments, 60% of Tribal health organizations, 45% of local health departments, and 25% of territorial health departments use the Core Competencies. Since the last Council meeting, the Core Competencies and resources and tools designed to support implementation have been accessed online more than 40,000 times, with more than 18,000 visits to the Core Competencies webpage since the 2021 version was released. Council staff have responded to more than 30 requests for assistance with the Core Competencies, serving 23 organizations in 17 states and China.

Dissemination of the 2021 Core Competencies
The 2021 Core Competencies have been available through the Council website since November 2021, and dissemination activities have begun to ensure the public health community is aware of and has access to this latest version for workforce development efforts. Sessions previewing the revised Core Competencies were held at the 2021 Public Health Learning Forum and American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in October 2021. Council staff have hosted webinars introducing the Core Competencies in December 2021 and March 2022, as well as participated in Open Forum: Next Generation in January 2022, the Region 2 Public Health Training Center's Log-in2Learn webinar series in February 2022, and a meeting of the Network of the National Library of Medicine's Public Health Collaborative and the National Indian Health Board's Tribal Accreditation Learning Community webinar series in March 2022 to share the revised Core Competencies. More than 1,600 participants engaged in these events. In addition to these events, information has been shared through the Council and Public Health Foundation websites, newsletters, and social media, as well as those of partner organizations.

Dissemination activities will continue over the coming months, and suggestions of activities or potential audiences for outreach are welcome. During the meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss dissemination ideas, and ideas may be shared at any time by email to Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Resources and Tools for Implementing the Core Competencies
Since the release of the 2021 Core Competencies, attention has also turned to updating and developing resources and tools that support individuals and organizations in implementing the Core Competencies.

Work has begun with a focus on developing resources and tools that will help with the transition from the 2014 to 2021 version of the Core Competencies, as well as updating existing resources and tools that support use of the Core Competencies to reflect the changes that have been made in the new version of the competency set. A crosswalk showing how the specific statements within the 2014 and 2021 versions relate to each other is under development, and updated versions of the existing competency assessments have been created based on the 2021 Core Competencies. Work has also begun on developing a short video or slide set that introduces the Core Competencies and updating a competency prioritization tool and a set of FAQs related to the Core Competencies.

Development of additional resources and tools based on feedback from the public health community and other needs identified is also being explored, and input on resources and tools that would help support use of the Core Competencies is appreciated. During the meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss resources and tools that might be useful, and suggestions may be shared at any time by emailing Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.

Healthy People 2030
Healthy People has long included objectives related to the Core Competencies. For Healthy People 2030, these objectives can be found within the Public Health Infrastructure topic and focus on increasing the proportion of local, state, Tribal, and territorial public health agencies that use the Core Competencies in continuing education for their personnel. During the meeting, updates related to these objectives will be shared.

Additional information about activities related to the Core Competencies can be found through the Core Competencies section of the Council website or by contacting Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.