Local Public Health System Assessment Survey

The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) is a broad assessment, involving all of the organizations and entities that contribute to public health in the community that answers the questions:

- What are the components, activities, competencies, and capacities of our local public health system?
- How are the 10 Essential Services being provided to our community?

The Essential Public Health Services describe the public health system activities that should be undertaken in all communities. Conducted by any component of the local public health system, the Essential Services are as follows:

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.
6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.
7. Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.
8. Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce.
9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.
10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

For more information on The Public Health System and 10 Essential Public Health Services, visit
www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialservices.html

Instructions: For all questions, rate "at what level does the Local Public Health System…"
Scale: 1). No Activity   2). Minimal   3). Moderate   4). Significant   5). Optimal

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 1:	
Monitor Health Status to Identify Community Health Problems	• Assessing, accurately and continually, the community's health status. • Identifying threats to health. Determining health service needs. • Paying attention to the health needs of groups that are at higher risk than the total population. • Identifying community assets and resources that support the public health system in promoting health and improving quality of life. • Using appropriate methods and technology to interpret and communicate data to diverse audiences. • Collaborating with other stakeholders, including private providers and health benefit plans, to manage multi-sectorial integrated information systems.

1. Conduct regular *Community Health Assessments* that includes indicators intended to monitor differences in health and wellness across populations, according to race, ethnicity, age, income, immigration status, sexual identify, education, gender, and neighborhood?
2. Update the *Community Health Assessment* with current information continuously?
3. Promote the use of the *Community Health Assessment* among community members and partners?
4. Use the best available technology and methods to display data on the public's health?
5. Analyze health data, including geographic information, to see where health problems exist?
6. Use computer software to create charts, graphs, and maps to display complex public health data (trends over time, sub-population analyses, etc.)?
7. Collect timely data consistent with current standards on specific health concerns in order to provide the data to population health registries?
8. Use information from population health registries in *Community Health Assessments* or other analyses?
9. Monitor social and economic conditions that affect health in the community, as well as institutional practices and policies that generate those conditions?
10. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 2:	
Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems and Health Hazards	• Accessing a public health laboratory capable of conducting rapid screening and high-volume testing. • Establishing active infectious disease epidemiology programs. • Creating technical capacity for epidemiologic investigation of disease outbreaks and patterns of the following: (a) infectious and chronic diseases, (b) injuries, and (c) other adverse health behaviors and conditions.

1. Participate in a comprehensive surveillance system with national, state, and local partners to identify, monitor, and share information and understand emerging health problems and threats?
2. Provide and collect timely and complete information on reportable diseases and potential disasters, emergencies, and emerging threats (natural and manmade)?
3. Ensure that the best available resources are used to support surveillance systems and activities, including information technology, communication systems, and professional expertise?
4. Maintain written instructions on how to handle communicable disease outbreaks and toxic exposure incidents, including details about case finding, contact tracing, and source identification and containment?
5. Develop written rules to follow in the immediate investigation of public health threats and emergencies, including natural and intentional disasters?
6. Designate a jurisdictional Emergency Response Coordinator?
7. Prepare to rapidly respond to public health emergencies according to emergency operations coordination guidelines?

8. Identify personnel with the technical expertise to rapidly respond to possible biological, chemical, or and nuclear public health emergencies?
9. Evaluate incidents for effectiveness and opportunities for improvement (such as After Action Reports, Improvement Plans, etc.)?
10. Have ready access to laboratories that can meet routine public health needs for finding out what health problems are occurring?
11. Maintain constant (24/7) access to laboratories that can meet public health needs during emergencies, threats, and other hazards?
12. Use only licensed or credentialed laboratories?
13. Maintain a written list of rules related to laboratories, for handling samples (including collecting, labeling, storing, transporting, and delivering), determining who is in charge of the samples at what point, and reporting the results?
14. Operate or participate in surveillance systems designed to monitor health inequities and identify the social determinants of health inequities specific to the jurisdiction and across several of its communities?
15. Collect reportable disease information from community health professionals about health inequities?
16. Have the necessary resources to collect information about specific health inequities and investigate the social determinants of health inequities?
17. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 3:	
Inform, Educate, and Empower People about Health Issues	• Creating community development activities. • Establishing social marketing and targeted media public communication. • Providing accessible health information resources at community levels. • Collaborating with personal healthcare providers to reinforce health promotion messages and programs. • Working with joint health education programs with schools, churches, worksites, and others.

1. Provide policymakers, stakeholders, and the public with ongoing analyses of community health status and related recommendations for health promotion policies?
2. Coordinate health promotion and health education activities at the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels?
3. Engage the community throughout the process of setting priorities, developing plans, and implementing health education and health promotion activities?
4. Develop health communication plans for media and public relations and for sharing information among LPHS organizations?
5. Use relationships with different media providers (e.g., print, radio, television, the Internet) to share health information, matching the message with the target audience?
6. Identify and train spokespersons on public health issues?
7. Develop an emergency communications plan for each stage of an emergency to allow for the effective dissemination of information?
8. Make sure resources are available for a rapid emergency communication response?
9. Provide risk communication training for employees and volunteers?
10. Provide the general public, policymakers, and public and private stakeholders with information about health inequities and the impact of government and private sector decision-making on historically marginalized communities?
11. Provide information about community health status (e.g., heart disease rates, cancer rates, and environmental risks) and community health needs in the context of health equity and social justice?
12. Plan and conduct health promotion and education campaigns that are appropriate to culture, age, language, gender, socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, and sexual orientation?
13. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 4:	
Mobilize Community Partnerships to Identify and Solve Health Problems	• Convening and facilitating partnerships among groups and associations (including those not typically considered to be health related). • Undertaking defined health improvement planning process and health projects, including preventive, screening, rehabilitation, and support programs. • Building a coalition to draw on the full range of potential human and material resources to improve community health.

1. Maintain a complete and current directory of community organizations?
2. Follow an established process for identifying key constituents related to overall public health interests and particular health concerns?
3. Encourage constituents to participate in activities to improve community health?
4. Create forums for communication of public health issues?
5. Establish community partnerships and strategic alliances to provide a comprehensive approach to improving health in the community?
6. Establish a broad-based community health improvement committee?
7. Assess how well community partnerships and strategic alliances are working to improve community health?
8. Have a process for identifying and engaging key constituents and participants that recognizes and supports differences among groups?
9. Provide institutional means for community-based organizations and individual community members to participate fully in decision-making?
10. Provide community members with access to community health data?
11. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 5:	
Develop Policies and Plans that Support Individual and Community Health Efforts	• Ensuring leadership development at all levels of public health. • Ensuring systematic community-level and state-level planning for health improvement in all jurisdictions. • Developing and tracking measurable health objectives from the *Community Health Improvement Plan* as a part of a continuous quality improvement plan. • Establishing joint evaluation with the medical healthcare system to define consistent policies regarding prevention and treatment services. • Developing policy and legislation to guide the practice of public health.

1. Support the work of the local health department (or other governmental local public health entity) to make sure the 10 Essential Public Health Services are provided?
2. See that the local health department is accredited through the PHAB's voluntary, national public health department accreditation program?
3. Ensure that the local health department has enough resources to do its part in providing essential public health services?
4. Contribute to public health policies by engaging in activities that inform the policy development process?
5. Alert policymakers and the community of the possible public health effects (both intended and unintended) from current and/or proposed policies?
6. Review existing policies at least every three to five years?
7. Establish a *Community Health Improvement Plan* (CHIP), with broad-based diverse participation, that uses information from the *Community Health Assessment,* including the perceptions of community members?
8. Develop strategies to achieve community health improvement objectives, including a description of organizations accountable for specific steps?

9. Connect organizational strategic plans with the *Community Health Improvement Plan* (CHIP)?
10. Support a workgroup to develop and maintain emergency preparedness and response plans?
11. Develop an emergency preparedness and response plan that defines when it would be used, who would do what tasks, what standard operating procedures would be put in place, and what alert and evacuation protocols would be followed?
12. Test the plan through regular drills and revise the plan as needed, at least every two years?
13. Ensure that community-based organizations and individual community members have a substantive role in deciding what policies, procedures, rules, and practices govern community heath efforts?
14. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 6:	
Enforce Laws and Regulations that Protect Health and Ensure Safety	• Enforcing sanitary codes, especially in the food industry. • Protecting drinking water supplies. • Enforcing clean air standards. • Initiating animal control activities. • Following-up hazards, preventable injuries, and exposure-related diseases identified in occupational and community settings. • Monitoring quality of medical services (e.g., laboratories, nursing homes, and home healthcare providers). • Reviewing new drug, biologic, and medical device applications.

1. Identify public health issues that can be addressed through laws, regulations, or ordinances?
2. Stay up-to-date with current laws, regulations, and ordinances that prevent health problems or that promote or protect public health on the federal, state, and local levels?
3. Review existing public health laws, regulations, and ordinances at least once every three to five years?
4. Have access to legal counsel for technical assistance when reviewing laws, regulations, or ordinances?
5. Identify local public health issues that are inadequately addressed in existing laws, regulations, and ordinances?
6. Participate in changing existing laws, regulations, and ordinances, and/or creating new laws, regulations, and ordinances to protect and promote the public health?
7. Provide technical assistance in drafting the language for proposed changes or new laws, regulations, and ordinances?
8. Identify organizations that have the authority to enforce public health laws, regulations, and ordinances?
9. Assure that a local health department (or other governmental public health entity) has the authority to act in public health emergencies?
10. Assure that all enforcement activities related to public health codes are done within the law?
11. Educate individuals and organizations about relevant laws, regulations, and ordinances?
12. Evaluate how well local organizations comply with public health laws?
13. Identify local public health issues that have a disproportionate impact on historically marginalized communities (that are not adequately addressed through existing laws, regulations, and ordinances)?
14. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 7:	
Link People to Needed Personal Health Services and Assure the Provision of Health Care when Otherwise Unavailable	• Ensuring effective entry for socially disadvantaged and other vulnerable persons into a coordinated system of clinical care. • Providing culturally and linguistically appropriate materials and staff to ensure linkage to services for special population groups. • Ensuring ongoing care management. • Ensuring transportation services. • Orchestrating targeted health education/promotion/disease prevention to vulnerable population groups.

1. Identify groups of people in the community who have trouble accessing or connecting to personal health services?
2. Identify all personal health service needs and unmet needs throughout the community?
3. Defines partner roles and responsibilities to respond to the unmet needs of the community?
4. Understand the reasons that people do not get the care they need?
5. Connect (or link) people to organizations that can provide the personal health services they may need?
6. Help people access personal health services, in a way that takes into account the unique needs of different populations?
7. Help people sign up for public benefits that are available to them (e.g., Medicaid or medical and prescription assistance programs)?
8. Coordinate the delivery of personal health and social services so that everyone has access to the care they need?
9. Identify any populations that may experience barriers to personal health services based on factors such as on age, education level, income, language barriers, race or ethnicity, disability, mental illness, access to insurance, sexual orientation and gender identity?
10. Identify the means through which historical social injustices specific to the jurisdiction (e.g., the inequitable distribution health services and transportation resources) may influence access to personal health services?
11. Work to influence laws, policies, and practices that maintain inequitable distributions of resources that may influence access to personal health services?
12. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 8:	
Assure a Competent Public and Personal Health Care Workforce	• Educating, training, and assessing personnel (including volunteers and other lay community health workers) to meet community needs for public and personal health services. • Establishing efficient processes for professionals to acquire licensure. • Adopting continuous quality improvement and lifelong learning programs. • Establishing active partnerships with professional training programs to ensure community-relevant learning experiences for all students. • Continuing education in management and leadership development programs for those charged with administrative/executive roles.

1. Set up a process and a schedule to track the numbers and types of LPHS jobs and the knowledge, skills, and abilities that they require whether those jobs are in the public or private sector?
2. Review the information from the workforce assessment and use it to find and address gaps in the local public health workforce?
3. Provide information from the workforce assessment to other community organizations and groups, including governing bodies and public and private agencies, for use in their organizational planning?
4. Make sure that all members of the public health workforce have the required certificates, licenses, and education needed to fulfill their job duties and meet the law?
5. Develop and maintain job standards and position descriptions based in the core knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to provide the essential public health services?

6. Base the hiring and performance review of members of the public health workforce in public health competencies?
7. Identify education and training needs and encourage the workforce to participate in available education and training?
8. Provide ways for workers to develop core skills related to essential public health services?
9. Develop incentives for workforce training, such as tuition reimbursement, time off for class, and pay increases?
10. Create and support collaborations between organizations within the public health system for training and education?
11. Continually train the public health workforce to deliver services in a cultural competent manner and understand social determinants of health?
12. Provide access to formal and informal leadership development opportunities for employees at all organizational levels?
13. Create a shared vision of community health and the public health system, welcoming all leaders and community members to work together?
14. Ensure that organizations and individuals have opportunities to provide leadership in areas where they have knowledge, skills, or access to resources?
15. Provide opportunities for the development of leaders representative of the diversity within the community?
16. Conduct assessments related to developing staff capacity and improving organizational functioning to support health equity initiatives?
17. Identify staff perspectives on the facilitators and barriers to addressing health equity initiatives?
18. Include staff members that are often excluded from planning and organizational decision-making processes in workforce assessments?
19. Recruit and train staff members from multidisciplinary backgrounds that are committed to achieving health equity?
20. Recruit and train staff members that reflect the communities they serve?
21. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 9:	
Evaluate Effectiveness, Accessibility, and Quality of Personal and Population- Based Health Services	• Assessing program effectiveness through monitoring and evaluating implementation, outcomes, and effect. • Providing information necessary for allocating resources and reshaping programs.

1. Evaluate how well population-based health services are working, including whether the goals that were set for programs were achieved?
2. Assess whether community members, including those with a higher risk of having a health problem, are satisfied with the approaches to preventing disease, illness, and injury?
3. Identify gaps in the provision of population-based health services?
4. Use evaluation findings to improve plans and services?
5. Evaluate the accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of personal health services?
6. Compare the quality of personal health services to established guidelines?
7. Measure satisfaction with personal health services?
8. Use technology, like the internet or electronic health records, to improve quality of care?
9. Use evaluation findings to improve services and program delivery?
10. Identify all public, private, and voluntary organizations that provide essential public health services?
11. Evaluate how well LPHS activities meet the needs of the community at least every five years, using guidelines that describe a model LPHS and involving all entities contributing to essential public health services?
12. Assess how well the organizations in the LPHS are communicating, connecting, and coordinating services?
13. Use results from the evaluation process to improve the LPHS?
14. Identify community organizations or entities that contribute to the delivery of the Essential Public
15. Health Services to historically marginalized communities?
16. Monitor the delivery of the Essential Public Health Services to ensure that they are equitably distributed?

17. Comments (open-ended)

ESSENTIAL SERVICE 10:	
Research for New Insights and Innovative Solutions to Health Problems	• Establishing full continuum of innovation, ranging from practical field-based efforts to fostering change in public health practice to more academic efforts that encourage new directions in scientific research. • Continually linking with institutions of higher learning and research. • Creating internal capacity to mount timely epidemiologic and economic analyses and conduct health services research.

1. Provide staff with the time and resources to pilot test or conduct studies to test new solutions to public health problems and see how well they actually work?
2. Suggest ideas about what currently needs to be studied in public health to organizations that do research?
3. Keep up with information from other agencies and organizations at the local, state, and national levels about current best practices in public health?
4. Encourage community participation in research, including deciding what will be studied, conducting research, and in sharing results?
5. Develop relationships with colleges, universities, or other research organizations, with a free flow of information, to create formal and informal arrangements to work together?
6. Partner with colleges, universities, or other research organizations to do public health research, including community-based participatory research?
7. Encourage colleges, universities, and other research organizations to work together with LPHS organizations to develop projects, including field training and continuing education?
8. Collaborate with researchers who offer the knowledge and skills to design and conduct health-related studies?
9. Support research with the necessary infrastructure and resources, including facilities, equipment, databases, information technology, funding, and other resources?
10. Share findings with public health colleagues and the community broadly, through journals, websites, community meetings, etc.?
11. Evaluate public health systems research efforts throughout all stages of work from planning to impact on local public health practice?
12. Encourage staff, research organizations, and community members to explore the root causes of health inequity, including solutions based on research identifying the health impact of structural racism, gender and class inequity, social exclusion, and power differentials?
13. Share information and strategize with other organizations invested in eliminating health inequity?
14. Use Health Equity Impact Assessments to analyze the potential impact of local policies, practices, and policy changes on historically marginalized communities?
15. Facilitate substantive community participation in the development and implementation of research about the relationships between structural social injustices and health status?
16. Comments (open-ended)