

# Improving Public Health Quality, Performance, and Accountability

Optimizing impact for the nation's public health infrastructure through streamlined, flexible funding

Ensuring quality, performance, and accountability in public health makes services more efficient, effective, reliable, and responsive to community needs. **CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Center (PHIC)** manages a substantial portion of infrastructure funding to strengthen the delivery of essential public health services, modernize public health data systems, and develop a skilled and sustainable workforce.

## Flexible Funding Strengthens Decision-Making

PHIC manages two key flexible funding programs for public health departments—the [Public Health Infrastructure Grant](#) and the [Public Health and Health Services Block Grant](#). These grants:

- **Enable health departments to make timely, informed decisions** for their community's unique health, safety, and security needs.
- **Align with other CDC funding sources** to maximize impact through coordinated support.
- **Implement tailored, community-driven strategies** that improve health outcomes and build resilience.
- **Offer adaptable funding for real-world needs** to ensure efficient, accountable use of federal resources.

## What Are Public Health Foundational Capabilities?

Health departments need cross-cutting skills and capacities, known as foundational capabilities, to provide public health services. These include:



## Streamlined Funding Maximizes Efficiency and Impact

PHIC also manages both the [National Partners Cooperative Agreement](#) and the [Tribal Cooperative Agreement](#). Together, these funding mechanisms:

- **Fund 48 national partner organizations and 26 tribes and tribally designated organizations** for critical public health programs.
- **Allow other CDC programs to directly fund partners** through a centralized, cost-sharing model.
- **Reduce administrative burden through a cost-sharing model** that improves management, oversight, and evaluation.
- **Standardize reporting across four CDC grant programs** through a common grants management system.

About 80% of CDC's domestic funding goes directly to state, tribal, local, and territorial public health departments and other partners to protect the health and safety of their communities.

## Using a Recipient-Centered Approach for Improvement

PHIC gathers recipient feedback in the [CDC Funded Recipient Experience Survey](#) to improve satisfaction with CDC support and services.

- **Feedback has identified areas for improvement**, such as reducing staff turnover, easing reporting requirements, and improving the user experience of grant management systems.
- **Cross-agency work groups use the data** to suggest ongoing improvements.

## Driving Excellence Through Accreditation

Public health department accreditation is a powerful tool that improves service quality, transparency, and emergency preparedness.

PHIC works with partners like the Public Health Accreditation Board to help health departments achieve accreditation, primarily through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant and the National Partners Cooperative Agreement.

Accreditation helps health departments:

- **Promote continuous quality improvement** through evidence-based standards and practices.
- **Build trust with communities** by increasing accountability and transparency.
- **Improve response to emerging threats** by ensuring they have strong foundational capabilities.
- **Strengthen overall funding impact** by building a resilient, efficient, and high-performing public health system.

## Reaching Every U.S. Community

As of April 2025, accredited health departments serve **90%** of the US population.

In surveys of accredited health departments:

**85%**

said that leadership used improved management processes

**90%**

said they were better able to identify and address gaps in workforce training and development