

How Is CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) Strengthening the Foundational Capabilities of Health Departments Nationwide?

Foundational Capabilities (A2) Mid-Grant Evaluation Findings (Dec 2022-May 2025)

Foundational capabilities are the cross-cutting skills, systems, and capacities that enable health departments to effectively deliver public health services and respond to community needs. Through PHIG funding, as well as technical assistance from National Partners, CDC is helping health departments strengthen critical capabilities such as emergency preparedness, data collection and analysis, health communications, policy development, and community partnerships. As of May 2025, PHIG national and regional partners have fulfilled 934 technical assistance requests from recipients - 289 of those focused on foundational capabilities.

1. PHIG helps ensure health departments have the tools, plans, and staff they need to detect and respond rapidly to public health threats and protect communities.

Almost all recipients (97%) reported plans to engage in assessment and surveillance activities through PHIG, such as improving infrastructure for community health assessments, vital records, epidemiology, data systems, and public health laboratories. About half of recipients (46%) reported plans to engage in emergency preparedness and response activities using PHIG funds. PHIG supports 236 emergency preparedness positions nationwide. **Staff in these roles work to promote community safety and security during emergencies and health threats.**

Recipient Spotlight



With PHIG funding, the **New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services** invested in a state medical surge planner who works with healthcare facilities across the state to prepare for emergencies. This includes partnering with rural hospitals to create a plan for handling sudden increases in patients.

2. PHIG is promoting a culture of excellence among health departments in states, cities, counties, territories, and freely associated states.

Halfway into the grant, 73% of recipients were accredited or reaccredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), with one in four recipients having achieved reaccreditation since the beginning of the grant. Three recipients have achieved initial accreditation since the beginning of PHIG. This indicates PHIG recipients are meeting rigorous public health practice standards and maintaining organizational excellence in critical areas. About half of PHIG recipients (46%) also reported plans to develop or implement quality improvement initiatives, strategies that further strengthen organizational performance. **When organizational competencies advance, health departments can become more responsive and adept in addressing local public health needs.**

Recipients' accreditation progress during PHIG



1 in 4 recipients have **achieved reaccreditation** since the beginning of PHIG (Dec. 2022).

Recipients' accreditation status mid-PHIG



As of May 2025, nearly **3 in 4 (73%)** of PHIG recipients were **accredited or reaccredited**.

Recipient Spotlight



The **Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services** launched the Montana Pathways Learning Collaborative to support local and tribal health departments on their journey toward accreditation, reaching 12 local health departments and two tribal health departments with technical assistance and peer learning. Self-reported scores on the accreditation standards domains showed improvement after participating in the learning collaborative.

3. PHIG is helping health departments create efficiencies in organizational processes.

Across all recipients, PHIG funds 2,305 positions that support organizational competencies in different areas such as leadership, governance, finance, procurement, contracting, and grants management. These functions are critical to health departments' ability to carry out their missions. For example, some recipients are using PHIG to examine how they can accurately assess, document, and track procurement processes for the first time, an important step that may have not happened without PHIG.

Among recipients reporting on procurement timeliness, more than half (53%) reported a decrease in time needed to procure goods and services (May 2024 to May 2025). **When health departments excel at managing their people, policies, and funding, they're able to allocate resources more effectively and provide services in a timely manner.**



of recipients reported a **decrease in time needed** to procure goods and services.

Recipient Spotlight

The **Tennessee Department of Health** used PHIG funding to build the Contract Tracking and Reporting Application (CTRAC) using a low-code platform (this means they could use pre-built tools instead of coding everything from scratch). Tennessee is using CTRAC to strengthen financial compliance and oversight, which helps them approve and manage contracts more efficiently and track budgets more effectively.



4. Health departments are using PHIG to develop and maintain evidence-based public health policies that promote community health and safety.

PHIG funds 183 policy development and support positions at state and local health departments. One in three PHIG recipients have reported plans to invest in activities that monitor and assess the impact of public health policies and support compliance with regulatory requirements.

Public health policy efforts like those supported by PHIG are designed to make evidence-based practices more consistent and sustainable, transforming one-time programs into concrete standards that protect health in local communities.

Recipient Spotlight

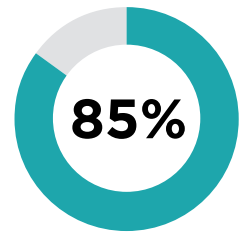


The **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** used PHIG technical assistance to standardize water safety with its first-ever Aquatic Health Code. National partners provided support to design an aquatic health regulatory framework tailored to the islands' unique public health and tourism landscape.

5.

PHIG is allowing health departments to partner with and provide services to the communities that they serve.

With support from PHIG, recipients are collaborating with local organizations, community groups, and residents to tackle health challenges together. Among recipients, 85% reported plans for community partnership development. Many health departments are developing and carrying out community health improvement plans (CHIPs) or state health improvement plans (SHIPs), making sure local voices shape priorities and solutions. PHIG also promotes community access to health services, such as clinical care, environmental health services, chronic disease and injury prevention, communicable disease control, and maternal and child health services. **These partnerships enable PHIG recipients to reach more people through trusted community liaisons and ensure health department priorities and services reflect real, local needs.**



of recipients plan to engage in activities related to **community partnership development**, including strengthening partnerships that support community health needs.

Recipient Spotlight



Using PHIG funding, **Los Angeles County Public Health** partnered with community-based organizations and federally qualified health centers to launch ten Community Public Health Teams. These teams conduct annual home visits to 8,000 – 13,000 households, assessing residents' health needs and connecting them to care or other resources as requested. From May 2024 - January 2025, these teams completed over 50,000 visits (including return visits) to 17,500 unique homes and finished 2,529 assessments.

Why This Matters

Overall, these findings show that PHIG is helping health departments build the foundational capabilities needed to address public health challenges and meet community needs. Taken together, recipients' investments in emergency preparedness, organizational excellence, process efficiency, policy development, and community partnerships indicate that recipients are using PHIG to be more effective, accountable, and responsive to the communities they serve.