



# The Future of Public Health Training Centers

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# Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs): An Overview

- Funded through the Affordable Care Act, Prevention and Public Health Fund
- Uses the cooperative agreement grant mechanism, an award instrument requiring substantial Federal involvement
- Consists of schools of public health accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health or other public or nonprofit private institutions accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health

# Challenging Times for Public Health

- Recognition of importance of prevention and healthy lifestyles puts onus on individuals
- New public health initiatives are part of the Affordable Care Act but many are yet to be implemented
- Experimentation with new delivery systems linking population health and clinical care compels a strong need to measure outcomes
- State and local public health agencies are experiencing painful cuts in staffing and other resources

# Vision for PHTCs

- Form strategic partnerships to improve the public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial and leadership competencies of the public health workforce
- Develop activities to prepare the workforce to carry out essential public health services
- Develop a network that links HRSA to the public health workforce covering the entire United States

# Four Statutory Requirements of PHTCs

Each PHTC is charged with:

1. Designating a specific geographical area to be served;
2. Establishing or strengthening field placements for students in public or nonprofit private health agencies or organizations;
3. Involving faculty and students in collaborative projects to enhance public health services to underserved communities;
4. Assessing the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center; and providing support to plan, develop, and implement training programs to meet the identified needs.

# Opportunities for PHTCs

- Collaborate to reduce duplication in course offerings between PHTCs
- Identify skill sets and expertise of centers across PHTC network
- Tailor core curricula to address local needs
- Standardize components of training needs assessment to address local variability
- Develop meaningful performance measures to address all four statutory requirements and measure impact of PHTC activities on the public health workforce
- Standardize evaluation methodologies to capture trends, compare measures across programs, and track outcomes of the PHTC network as a whole

# Opportunities for PHTCs, cont'd

- Strengthen partnerships with state, local and tribal public health agencies
- Enhance staffing and leadership of PHTC programs and collaboration between PHTCs
- Justify future funding for the PHTC program annually by demonstrating outcomes and identifying future activities to address population health
- Establish mentoring relationships between PHTC programs based on areas of expertise, strengths, and needs

# Strategic Partnership Between PHTCs and HRSA

Strong partnerships between PHTCs and HRSA will allow us to take advantage of opportunities and address challenges.

PHTCs are the “safety net” of the public health workforce!

## More Information on PHTCs

- **To access individual and program-wide information:** a map showing the lead institutions, partners, and geographic coverage areas can be found at <http://www.publichealthtrainingcenters.org>.
- **For information on the grant program,** including open funding opportunities, visit <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/publichealth/phtc.html>.
- **Or, contact:** HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, Division of Public Health and Interdisciplinary Education at 301-443-6950.