

Florida Public Health Training Center

University of South Florida College of Public Health

Overview

The mission of the Florida Public Health Training Center (FPHTC) is to improve the public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competencies and capabilities of the current and future public health workforce in Florida and nationally. The FPHTC broadens the foundational skills and competencies of Florida's public health workers through training and educational programs based on the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals.

The geographic coverage of the FPHTC is the state of Florida, and our target audience is Florida's current and future public health workforce, including those in medically underserved areas and populations. The FPHTC's programs use distance-learning modalities to reach the broadest possible number of public health workers in Florida.

Key Activities

- Providing competency-based training and education to meet the training needs and broaden the foundational skills and competencies of Florida's ~17,000 public health workers, most of whom are employed by the Florida Department of Health and work in its central office and 67 county health departments (CHDs). We are targeting the training topics identified as most important in the 2011 needs assessment conducted with the Florida Department of Health.
- Supporting collaborative projects developed between University of South Florida College of Public Health (USF COPH) faculty and students and Florida's local, state, and regional public health agencies to help enhance the quality of public health services, especially for medically underserved areas and populations.
- Strengthening field placements for USF COPH students in county health departments in Florida, particularly those serving underserved areas and populations.
- Implementing an Online Mentor Program for Florida Department of Health workers and USF COPH students and faculty to strengthen the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competencies and capabilities of the current and future public health workforce.

Public Health in Action



Instructor Nadine D. Mescia, MHS, leads a Mentor Program webinar, assisted by other FPHTC staff acting as moderators and technical support.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- The FPHTC has delivered five on-site facilitator-led competency-based training and education programs and four distance learning webinars to over 200 public health workers and students in Florida who serve medically underserved communities. Five additional facilitator-led training programs are scheduled this program year.
- The FPHTC has awarded ten Field Placements to USF COPH students in county health departments who work in medically underserved areas and populations in Florida.
- The FPHTC is supporting three Collaborative Projects in which USF COPH faculty and students work with local, state, and regional public health agencies in Florida to enhance the quality of public health services, especially for medically underserved areas and populations.
- The FPHTC has implemented a pilot Online Mentor Program for Florida Department of Health workers and public health students. The Online Mentor Program is designed to foster leadership development; strengthen participant competence in the Leadership and Systems Thinking domain; expand participants' knowledge, skills, and abilities and broaden understanding of the Florida Department of Health's missions and programs. There are currently 64 participants in the Online Mentor Program.
- The FPHTC collaborated with the Puerto Rico-Florida Public Health Training Center and the Florida Department of Health to develop and conduct a learning needs assessment of Florida's public health workers.

Key Partners

- Florida Department of Health
- Office of Workforce Development staff
- County health department directors and administrators
- Regional and local training specialists

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Adewale Troutman, MD, MPH, MA

Co-Principal Investigator: David P. Rogoff, MHA

Florida PHTC

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HRSA Public Health Training Centers



The Health Resources and Services Administration funded Public Health Training Centers (PHTC) are partnerships between accredited schools of public health, related academic institutions, and public health agencies and organizations. The PHTC Network improves the Nation's public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of current and future public health professionals. Public Health Training Centers assess the learning needs of the public health workforce, provide accessible training, and work with organizations to meet other strategic planning, education, and resource needs.

<http://www.publichealthtrainingcenters.org>



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