

Kentucky and Appalachia Public Health Training Center

University of Kentucky College of Public Health



Overview

The primary mission of the Kentucky and Appalachia Public Health Training Center (KAPHTC) is to expand partnerships and critical linkages among state and local practice, academic partners in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Central Appalachian region to provide improved access to education and training for the current and future public health workforce.

The KAPHTC coordinates training programs for public health practitioners in Kentucky and the Appalachian region. The purpose of our work is to strengthen skills and improve public health practice. The Essential Public Health Services and core public health competencies serve as a development and training framework for current and future activities.

Key Activities

- Conduct Public Health Workforce Training Needs Assessment
- Develop and Design Curriculum
 - Leadership Development, Formal Education, Professional Training, Management Training, Accreditation Readiness, Medically Underserved Population Focused Training
- Create and Evaluate Learning Products and Training Programs
- Facilitate Action Learning Mentoring and Community Projects
- Create Field Placement Opportunities for Students

The workforce in underserved areas is frequently called on to expand its established responsibilities and duties, as the resources are scarce, to include more traditional public health knowledge and skills. Increasing the number and the competency of local public health workers to serve all sectors of the population is consistent with existing demands to address workforce supply issues and the quality of current and future personnel. The KAPHTC will use its resources and continue to expand partnerships to improve access to online programming, certification programs, and critical web-based data, information, and research in order to improve the health outcomes in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Public Health in Action



University of Kentucky College of Public Health students speak with a local public health department director during a student practicum fair. Students learn about opportunities to obtain field experience in medically underserved areas.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

The KAPHTC is developing a statewide strategy for public health workforce development, which includes increasing diversity in the workforce, providing trans-disciplinary practical experiences, and meeting the training needs of the public health and community health center staff. Many public health organizations in the target population have agreed to utilize the activities of the KAPHTC and to support the development and promote course offerings. The KAPHTC provides training in a variety of distance learning formats to ensure accessibility to learners with different needs and those in remote underserved areas. Public health workers drawn from the target audience serve on committees to provide guidance for strategy and course development. In the first year of activities, the KAPHTC has started work on a statewide PH workforce training needs assessment, provided opportunities and funding for students to obtain field experiences in medically underserved areas, and developed trainings for the workforce to meet immediate needs, such as strategic and succession planning and an Appalachian cultural awareness training for practitioners and students.

Key Partners

PHTCs in states which serve populations in Appalachia

- Eastern Kentucky University
- Western Kentucky University
- Kentucky State University
- Community colleges located in the underserved areas
- Kentucky Public Health Research Network
- Kentucky Primary Care Association
- Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine
- UK Center of Excellence in Workforce Research and Policy
- Kentucky Public Health Association
- Kentucky Health Department Association
- Kentucky Department for Public Health
- UK Appalachian Center

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Cynthia Lamberth, MPH, CPH

Co-Principal Investigator: F. Douglas Scutchfield, MD

Kentucky and Appalachia PHTC

121 Washington Avenue, Suite 212

Lexington, KY 40536

859.218.2061

erin.louis@uky.edu

<http://www.kaphtc.org/>

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>



Published August 2011