

Southwest Regional Public Health Training Center

UCLA Fielding School, Utah



Overview

The Southwest Regional Public Health Training Center (SRPHTC) was established to enhance the competency of the existing and future public health workforce in California, Nevada, and Utah through the delivery of evidence-based training and workforce development opportunities. There are an estimated 15,200 public health workers across the Center's region, which has large urban centers, geographically isolated rural counties, and populations that are among the most racially and ethnically diverse in the country. SRPHTC's approach is to utilize a mixture of in-person and distance-learning strategies to meet the training and workforce development needs of its widespread and diverse constituency, with a particular focus on public health professionals serving in underserved areas. A fundamental strategy is to utilize the vast knowledge and expertise of the faculties of UCLA and University of Utah to develop high-quality continuing education products and services. The overarching goal of SRPHTC is to improve the health status of California, Nevada, and Utah residents – more than 14% of the United States population – via delivery of essential services by a competent public health workforce.

Key Activities

California Workforce Alliance:

The California Public Health Alliance for Workforce Excellence (CPHAWE), originated and co-led by SRPHTC, assembled two general member meetings attended by public health leadership from local and state agencies, community clinics, academic institutions, and public-health related NGOs to discuss 2010-11 public health workforce development strategies involving Needs Assessment, Competencies, and Workforce Capacity.

Needs Assessment:

SRPHTC has collaborated with practice and academic partners from CPHAWE to develop a California statewide knowledge-based needs assessment to be conducted in state and local health departments to assess current and emerging workforce competency. Formative research with state and local public health leadership and professional organizations in Utah and Nevada has been conducted to assess workforce needs for this area.

Trainings, Webinars, and Learning Management System:

The SRPHTC Learning Management System (LMS) will allow participants to track their individual progress through the competency-based training program, which will include a knowledge-based needs assessment and post-training evaluation. Its website, asynchronous online trainings, and webinars will launch Summer 2011.

Emerging Leader Workshop Series:

To help assure that future public health leaders of the region have solid management skills and competence, SRPHTC is developing a workshop series of ½ or 1-day workshops to address critical management responsibilities such as Strategic Planning, Finance and Budgeting, Effective Communication, Time Management, and Practical Evaluation. Sessions will be repeated at multiple locations to increase access for its multi-state participants.

Field Studies Program:

This program provides MPH students with field studies opportunities that will strengthen their knowledge and skill base while providing meaningful experiences at agencies that serve medically underserved populations. The University of Utah has partnered with Area Health Education Centers to develop student placements in rural and medically underserved areas of Utah. SRPHTC awarded over 30 Fellowships in Spring 2011.

Impact on Public Health Workforce

- SRPHTC has a proven track-record of workforce development and trainings in its region via its leadership of the Pacific Public Health Training Center (SRPHTC's predecessor) and the work of its Principal Investigator's Center for Public Health and Disasters.
- Particular attention has been paid to develop a training model that serves public health professionals working in urban settings and in rural and frontier counties alike. Since so much of its region is comprised of rural and frontier areas, the model includes substantial distance learning components, including computer-based training modules and regional workshops.
- SRPHTC is working to coordinate learning management strategies to meet the needs of users across the region and to leverage the strengths and exposure of different state LMS systems.
- We are developing the capacity to access existing high-priority training topics with the aim to link learners with needed training and to identify gaps where quality training is not available.
- SRPHTC is developing capacity to provide on-site training in rural areas through creative partnerships and collaborative resource-sharing.
- In 2011-12, SRPHTC expects to provide training to approximately 2,500 public health professionals.

Key Partners

- UCLA School of Public Health
- University of Utah Division of Public Health
- UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters
- California Public Health Alliance for Workforce Excellence
- California Department of Public Health
- Utah Department of Health
- Nevada State Health Division
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Nevada Local Health Departments
- Utah Local Health Departments
- Center for Health Leadership and Practice
- Great Basin Public Health Leadership Institute

Leadership

Principal Investigator: Kimberley I. Shoaf, DrPH

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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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