

CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS)

Partnering with CSTLTS & Accessing Key Services

Updated December 2020

CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS) has many programs, mechanisms, and relationships that we use to communicate, educate, and work with state, tribal, local, and territorial (STLT) health professionals, national public health organizations, and others about public health issues and CDC activities. We invite public health agencies and national public health organizations to partner with us to use these services, resources, and channels.

CSTLTS Services, Resources, and Channels

- **Contact CSTLTS for Assistance:** CSTLTS staff address or triage requests from STLT health department staff to relevant CDC centers, institutes, or offices (CIOs) for response.
 - Health departments may contact the CSTLTS Support Line at 404-698-9246.
 - Main CSTLTS phone line: 404-498-0300; Email: CSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov.
- **CSTLTS Speakers:**
 - To request the CSTLTS Director's participation as a speaker at an event or meeting, visit the [Director's Speaker Request page](#).
 - To request other CSTLTS speakers, email CSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov.
- **Health Official Orientation:** CSTLTS coordinates CDC's annual Orientation for New Health Officials, which provides new STLT health officials with a comprehensive perspective of CDC priorities, operations, and leadership. The meeting gives health officials an opportunity to collaborate with CDC leaders and other health officials to help advance their public health goals.
 - Access additional [Resources for New Health Officials](#).
- **CDC STLT Connection Facebook Page** aims to engage STLT health professionals and other audiences by sharing public health information regularly.
- **Did You Know?** promotes timely news from across CDC to inform public health programs and move data and recommendations into action.
 - [Subscribe](#) to receive *Did You Know?* emails.
 - [Syndicate](#) *Did You Know?* on your website.
- **Field Notes** spotlights success and innovation in state, tribal, local, and territorial health agencies.
 - [Subscribe](#) to Field Notes.
 - Propose a story for Field Notes by emailing CSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov.
- **Public Health Professionals Gateway** is a CDC website designed specifically for health department staff and serves as a portal to CDC resources, tools, and information.
- **STLT Collaboration Space:** This SharePoint-based site provides tools and resources created specifically for state, tribal, local, and territorial public health professionals, including the [Communication Resource Center](#). Registered users working in STLT health agencies can access free, customizable CDC materials they can use to enhance their communications.
- **News & Alerts:** CSTLTS connects public health professionals with the latest CDC news, research, and releases.
 - [Subscribe](#) to the Updates for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Public Health Professionals mailing list.
 - [Subscribe](#) to the "What's New" RSS feed to get updates on CDC events, publications, and releases.
- **US Public Health System Information:** CSTLTS creates and compiles resources—such as [Public Health Systems &](#)



[Best Practices](#), [Federal Programs & Funding](#), and [Health Agency Profiles](#)—to explain how the public health system operates.

- Use these resources to learn more about the public health system and inform decision-making.
- When presented with the opportunity, participate in CDC or national organization surveys of the functions, operations, and status of the public health system.
- Email CSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with questions or to share relevant resources.

CSTLTS Programs

- **Division of Performance Improvement and Field Services (DPIFS):** CSTLTS/DPIFS conducts planning, assessment, and evaluation activities that identify improvement opportunities in public health agency and systems structure, operations, and performance; advance the professional development and capability of the public health workforce; and develop and disseminate evidence of successful agency and system improvement strategies. The division leads and manages the Public Health Associate Program and coordinates across CDC and STLT health agencies to support temporary and ongoing placement of CDC field staff within STLT public health agencies.
 - **Public Health Associate Program (PHAP):** PHAP is a competitive, two-year paid CDC training program that provides opportunities for recent graduates with a bachelor's or master's degree to gain broad experience in the day-to-day operation of public health programs. PHAP associates are assigned to a STLT public health agency or public health organization and work in the field alongside other public health professionals. After completing the program, PHAP graduates are qualified for jobs with government health agencies.
 - Health departments: Learn about [applying to be a host site](#).
 - Recent graduates: Learn about [applying to be an associate](#).
 - Email PHAP@cdc.gov with questions about the program.
 - **National Public Health Accreditation:** CSTLTS coordinates CDC's support for national voluntary accreditation for STLT health departments and administers [a cooperative agreement](#) with the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The program's goal is to improve and protect the public's health by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. PHAB's standards and measures are the framework for evaluating a health department's processes and services, outcomes, and progress toward specific goals and objectives. The accreditation assessment process provides health departments with valuable, measurable feedback about their strengths and areas for improvement.
 - Visit [PHAB's website](#) to view the nationally established standards and measures, review guidance for the national accreditation program, and find a list of nationally accredited health departments.
 - Use [CDC's accreditation web pages](#) to identify resources and tools to support accreditation readiness.
 - **Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Planning**
 - Use [community health assessment information and tools](#) to develop and implement community health assessments and health improvement plans, whether for accreditation preparation, nonprofit hospital collaboration, or other reasons.
 - **Performance Management and Quality Improvement**
 - Participate in the [Public Health Improvement Training \(PHIT\)](#), an annual event hosted by the National Network for Public Health Improvement through a cooperative agreement with CSTLTS. PHIT offers networking opportunities, as well as interactive learning and skill-building sessions on public health performance improvement.
 - Use [performance management information and tools](#) to increase the effectiveness of health agencies, systems, and services.
 - **National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS)**
 - NPHPS is an assessment tool that health departments and their governing bodies can use to assess their performance. Visit the [NPHPS web pages](#) to view links to the current tools.

- **Division of Program and Partnership Services (DPPS):** CSTLTS/DPPS builds and improves the capacity and performance of the public health system through national partnerships and national grant programs.
 - [Preventive Health and Health Services \(PHHS\) Block Grant](#): The PHHS Block Grant provides all 50 states, 2 American Indian tribes, five US territories, and three freely associated states, and the District of Columbia with funding to address their unique public health needs in innovative and locally defined ways.
 - [Cooperative Agreements, Grants & Partnerships](#): CSTLTS coordinates various partnerships, grants, and cooperative agreements with national public health organizations and tribal organizations to support the public health community:
 - [Strengthening Public Health Systems and Services Through National Partnerships to Improve and Protect the Nation’s Health](#) cooperative agreement: contact CSTLTSPartnersCoAg@cdc.gov.
 - [Strengthening the Public Health System in the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands](#) cooperative agreement: contact pihoacoag@cdc.gov.
 - [Technical Assistance for Response to Public Health or Healthcare Crises](#) cooperative agreement: contact CSTLTSCrisisCoAg@cdc.gov.
 - [Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement](#) cooperative agreement: contact CSTLTSTribalCoAg@cdc.gov.
 - [Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness & Response](#): This grant supports tribal nations, tribal consortia, and tribal organizations in carrying out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communication, and other COVID-19 preparedness and response activities. Contact TribalCOVIDgrant@cdc.gov.
 - CSTLTS can email information to public health partners—if we are the cooperative agreement management lead—or we can make connections among external stakeholders and national organizations.
 - [National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health \(NLAPH\)](#): This applied leadership training program enables multi-sector jurisdictional teams to address public health problems within their communities through team-identified community health improvement projects. Each community-based team receives leadership training and coaching from national experts through collaboration with other teams via webinars, retreats, and networking.
- **Office of Island Affairs (OIA):** OIA provides leadership for public health strategies, policies, programs, and systems improvements in the five US territories and three freely associated states and engages with public health officials in the region to address public health issues.
 - Email OIA@cdc.gov with questions.
- **Office of Tribal Affairs and Strategic Alliances (OTASA):** OTASA works closely with American Indian/Alaska Native communities, providing technical assistance to tribal nations and tribal organizations, coordinating agency-wide data calls, and advising and improving input about CDC’s response to tribal issues, needs, and challenges.
 - **Tribal Advisory Committee and Tribal Consultations:** Each year, CDC/ATSDR hosts Tribal Advisory Committee Meetings and tribal consultation sessions to provide a forum for consultation between CDC leaders and elected or appointed tribal leaders (or their designated representatives). CSTLTS helps plan and conduct these sessions in cooperation with CDC and ATSDR. These meetings are advertised in the [Federal Register](#).
 - Attend the public portions of the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee or tribal consultation sessions.
 - Tribal leaders: Submit written testimony and/or present testimony for tribal consultation sessions, according to instructions provided in the Federal Register Notice.
 - If eligible, apply to be a member of the CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee when a call for applications is advertised.
 - **Technical assistance:** OTASA helps tribes connect to CDC resources and expertise and provides technical assistance to STLT health agencies about working with tribes or on tribal issues.
 - Email TribalSupport@cdc.gov with requests or questions.

- **[Public Health Law Program \(PHLP\)](#)**: PHLP advances the use of law as a public health tool by providing services and resources such as technical assistance, publications, legal epidemiology, and workforce development to CDC programs and STLT communities.
 - The [Public Health Law website](#) provides resources, tools, and training on various public health law issues, including menus of public health laws, judicial bench books, issue briefs, 50-state assessments, and memoranda of understanding between governmental entities.
 - [Public Health Law News](#) is a monthly digest of news stories, journal articles, court opinions, and announcements related to public health law.
 - [Subscribe](#) to the News.
 - **Technical assistance**: PHLP provides expert legal analysis on public health law issues and specializes in legal research and writing. PHLP can provide legal expertise to help CDC CIOs or health departments design and incorporate appropriate legal research projects tailored to their particular public health subject matter. PHLP can also help them identify and analyze STLT laws or actions on public health issues.
 - Request [technical assistance on public health law](#).
 - **Education and training**: PHLP provides training in public health law for CDC staff and external stakeholders. Public Health Law 101 training sessions give an overview of public health law and discuss its relevance and use in today's public health analysis and practice.
 - Access training and educational resources, including free, self-paced courses from the [Public Health Law Academy](#) and a training series on [Public Health Emergency Law](#).
 - Email phlawprogram@cdc.gov to request training.
 - **Public health law partners**: PHLP has relationships with national public health law networks and states and can connect stakeholders to those partners, as needed.
 - [View contact information](#) for state and selected local legal counsel, as well as for US border countries.
 - Email phlawprogram@cdc.gov for assistance or information.