



CDC Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) Guide to Accessing Key Resources and Services

OSTLTS 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 programs. We invite STLT public health agencies and other partner organizations to work with us to use these channels. The main OSTLTS phone line is 404-498-0300, and the email address is OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov.

- **Accreditation and Performance Improvement**

- **National Public Health Accreditation:** OSTLTS coordinates CDC's support for national voluntary accreditation for STLT health departments. The goal of this program is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) 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 valuable, measurable feedback to health departments on their strengths and areas for improvement.
 - Visit [PHAB's website](#) to see the nationally established standards and measures, review guidance for the national accreditation program, and see a list of nationally accredited health departments.
 - Visit the [OSTLTS Accreditation webpages](#) to identify resources and tools to support readiness efforts and learn about CDC's work to advance accreditation.
 - Send your accreditation readiness and quality improvement stories or experiences to phaccreditation@cdc.gov.
- **Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Planning**
 - [Use the community health assessment information and tools on this site](#) to develop and implement community health assessments and health improvement plans, whether for accreditation preparation, nonprofit hospital collaboration, or other reasons.
 - Email phpsp@cdc.gov to share stories and examples from the field.
- **Performance Management and Quality Improvement**
 - [Use the performance management information and tools on this site](#) to increase the effectiveness of health agencies, systems, and services.
 - Email phpsp@cdc.gov to share information or descriptions of experiences in quality improvement and performance management.
- **National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS):** These are national public health performance standards for STLT public health systems and public health governing bodies.
 - Visit the [NPHPS website](#) to view assessment tools and guidance for the process.



- **CDC STLT Connection Facebook Page:** The goal of this page is to engage the STLT community in social media conversations and to share public health information that may be of interest to STLT communities.
 - [Join the group, post, and share information with others.](#)
- **“Did You Know?”:** This weekly feature promotes timely news from across CDC to inform public health programs and move data and recommendations into action.
 - [Sign up](#) to get Did You Know? emails.
 - [Syndicate Did You Know? on your website.](#)
 - Browse the archive by [topic](#) or [date](#).
- **Email assistance:** OSTLTS staff answer or triage requests or issues from health department staff to relevant CDC centers, institutes, or offices (CIOs) for response.
 - Health departments may contact OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with requests for assistance.
- **Field Services Office (FSO):** FSO builds and strengthens networks among CDC field staff who are assigned to STLT health agencies to improve service to the field. FSO supports field staff with activities to facilitate networking and collaboration and can help facilitate connections between external stakeholders and CDC field staff.
 - Email FSConnect@cdc.gov with questions.
- **Have You Heard? Facts From The Field:** This feature complements the Did You Know? series and shares the concerns and challenges of STLT health agencies, as well as their successes. Anyone may submit content for consideration.
 - Read [instructions](#) on how to submit stories.
 - [Sign up](#) to get Have You Heard? emails.
 - Browse the archives by [topic](#) or [date](#).
- **Health Official Orientation:** OSTLTS 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 orientation gives health officials an opportunity to collaborate with CDC leadership and other health officials to advance their public health goals.
 - [Access orientation materials.](#)
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with any questions.
- **Health System Transformation: Resources for Health Departments:** Health system transformation affects the total health system, including all clinical and community players. The US health system is moving from a payment-based system (based on the volume of services provided) to a quality-based system (based on the quality and health outcomes derived from the services received). OSTLTS provides technical assistance, tools, and resources for health agencies and healthcare providers to advance mutual goals, priorities, and initiatives to improve population health. OSTLTS also provides technical assistance to healthcare providers.
 - [Access resources](#) on health system transformation, including presentations and transcripts.

- **OSTLTS Speakers**
 - To request OSTLTS Director Dr. Judith A. Monroe’s participation as a speaker at an event or meeting, please complete this speaker request form  [DOC - 56KB] and submit it to JLKennedy@cdc.gov.
 - To request other OSTLTS speakers, email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov.

- **Partnership Support Unit (PSU):** OSTLTS/PSU coordinates several initiatives with national nonprofit organizations to build the capacity and infrastructure of public health agencies and systems.
 - **Web:** The [partnership section](#) of the STLT Gateway website describes CDC’s partnerships and cooperative agreements with 23 national public health organizations to support the public health community. These are just a few examples of CDC’s partnerships with national organizations, including those in sectors other than public health.
 - **Email list:** OSTLTS can share information via email with the public health partners for which we are the cooperative agreement management lead or make connections between external stakeholders and the national organizations.
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with questions.

- **Primary Care and Public Health Initiative:** Through this initiative, CDC is working to integrate population health into medical residency program curricula and competencies, increase clinician understanding of public health problems and national initiatives offering potential solutions, and increase clinician awareness and use of CDC resources.
 - [View teleconferences and download educational materials.](#)
 - [Subscribe](#) to updates.

- **Public Health Practice Stories from the Field:** This is a collection of public health success stories from STLT agencies and national organizations. The stories describe practices that have helped improve public health.
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov to submit ideas.

- **Prevention Status Reports:** The Prevention Status Reports (PSRs) highlight the status of policies and practices designed to prevent or reduce problems affecting public health. Individual reports are available for all 50 states and the District of Columbia on the following 10 health topics: excessive alcohol use; food safety; healthcare-associated infections; heart disease and stroke; HIV; motor vehicle injuries; nutrition, physical activity, and obesity; prescription drug overdose; teen pregnancy; and tobacco use.
 - [Use the PSRs](#) to learn the status of evidence-based or expert-recommended policies and practices in your state, inform decisions, and educate stakeholders about options to improve and protect health.
 - Download the [PSR Quick Start Guide](#), which has tips and tools to help you use the PSRs to advance evidence-based public health practices in your state.

- **Public Health Communities of Practice:** Public health communities of practice (CoPs) are electronic information exchanges where public health professionals can collaborate on priority issues; they help strengthen public health as members learn, share expertise, and work together on solving common problems in their communities’ focus areas. Communities are usually open to everyone working or interested in the domain, although some are closed to allow a private space for members to deal with sensitive issues transparently.

- To join a CoP, sign up on the phConnect.org website or learn about other ways by reading the [Join a CoP link](#). Instructions on how to join phConnect are located here.
- **Public Health Law:** CDC's Public Health Law Program (PHLP) works to improve the health of the public by developing law-related tools and providing legal technical assistance to public health practitioners and policy makers in STLT jurisdictions. 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:** This monthly Internet newsletter (~126,000 subscribers as of February 2014) is an important resource for public health law current events, publications, and resources.
 - [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 assist CDC CIOs or health departments identify and analyze STLT laws or actions on public health issues.
 - Request [technical assistance](#).
 - **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.
 - [Subscribe](#) to the *News* to learn about upcoming training.
 - Email phlawprogram@cdc.gov to request training.
 - Access [training and educational resources](#).
 - **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.
 - Email phlawprogram@cdc.gov with any questions.
- **STLT Subcommittee to the Advisory Committee to the Director of CDC:** This subcommittee is a 15-member panel of leaders from STLT health agencies. The subcommittee provides advice and recommendations to the Advisory Committee to the Director of CDC (ACD) on public health policies and practices relevant to STLT jurisdictions. The subcommittee focuses on integrating CDC priorities with STLTs' work and helping CDC identify strategies to address the most critical challenges facing STLTs in an ever-evolving health system. The subcommittee is charged with researching and deliberating about potential ways to address these challenges and proposing subsequent positions papers and/or recommendations for consideration by the ACD.
 - Visit the [website](#) to learn more and read minutes from previous meetings.
 - Attend STLT Subcommittee meetings that are open to the public, as advertised in the [Federal Register](#).
 - Email OSTLTSDirector@cdc.gov with any questions.
- **STLT Collaboration Space:** This SharePoint site provides tools and resources created specifically for STLT professionals, including the Communication Resource Center (CRC) and the CDC Online Resource Directory (CORD). Registered users can access free, CDC-produced communication materials that can be customized and shared, such as fact sheets, matte articles, photographs, and

broadcast-quality videos. In addition, to increase communication between CDC and public health agency staff, users can search for CDC staff by name, organizational unit, city, or state, and get their phone numbers and email addresses.

- [Register](#) to participate in the STLT Collaboration Space.
- Access the [External Partner Quick Registration Guide](#).
- **[State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial \(STLT\) Public Health Professionals Gateway](#)**: The STLT Gateway is designed specifically for health department staff and provides a portal to many CDC resources.
 - [Subscribe](#) to the [“What’s New” RSS feed](#) to receive automatic updates from the STLT Gateway to your desktop or browser.
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with any questions.
- **Technical Assistance and Service Improvement Initiative (TASII)**: OSTLTS developed TASII to improve support to and service from CDC’s 1,400 project officers and program consultants who work with STLT health agencies that have cooperative agreements with CDC. The initiative focuses on the development and enhancement of systems, strategies, tools, practices, and policies.
 - Email tasiinitiative@cdc.gov with suggestions for improving service from CDC projects officers to health department grantees.
- **Training Programs**
 - **[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. Each PHAP associate is assigned to a STLT public health agency and works alongside public health professionals in the field. After completing the program, PHAP graduates are qualified for jobs with government health agencies and are uniquely prepared to pursue an advanced degree in public health.
 - Health departments: [Apply to be a host organization](#).
 - Recent graduates: [Apply to be an associate](#).
 - Email PHAP@cdc.gov with any questions.
 - **[National Leadership Academy for the Public’s Health](#)**: 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.
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov for information about this program.
- **[Tribal Support Unit \(TSU\)](#)**: TSU links tribal governments with CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Tribal support activities focus on fulfilling CDC’s supportive role in ensuring that American Indian/Alaska Native communities receive public health services that keep them safe and healthy.
 - **Tribal Advisory Committee and Tribal Consultations**: Each year, CDC/ATSDR hosts two tribal consultation sessions to provide a forum for consultation between CDC leadership and elected or appointed tribal leaders (or their designated representatives). OSTLTS 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](#) meetings.
 - Tribal leaders: Submit written testimony and/or present testimony for CDC/ATSDR Tribal Consultation Sessions, according to instructions provided in the applicable 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:** TSU helps tribes connect to CDC resources and expertise and provides technical assistance to STLT health agencies on working with tribes or on tribal issues.
 - Email TribalSupport@cdc.gov with requests or questions.
- **US Public Health System:** OSTLTS supports, produces, and/or has compiled a number of resources to help stakeholders understand how the public health system operates, such as [About CDC and the US Public Health System](#) and [Health Agency Profiles](#).
 - Use these resources to educate yourself and others about the public health system and to inform decision-making.
 - When given the opportunity, participate in CDC or national organization surveys of the functions, operations, and status of the public health system.
 - Email OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov with any questions or requests related to these materials or to inform OSTLTS about new, related materials.
- **Vital Signs Town Hall Teleconferences:** These monthly teleconferences are held a week after the release of CDC's monthly *Vital Signs* report. They offer a venue for health officials to discuss strategies, lessons learned, and success stories, as well as build networks around these leading public health challenges.
 - [Join the monthly call.](#)
 - [Browse the teleconference archive](#) by topic.