

## **Ohio Department of Higher Education & Ohio Department of Health**

### **Local Health Department Profiles and Accreditation Readiness Assessment**

#### **Why is this assessment being completed?**

As part of an overall effort to develop profiles of Ohio's local health districts (LHDs) and to support their pursuit of public health agency accreditation, the Center for Public Health Practice (CPHP) within the Ohio State University College of Public Health is conducting an assessment of services and accreditation readiness.

Findings from this assessment will be used to develop local public health profile reports to inform accreditation work plan development, to provide ODH with a statewide summary report, and to identify and direct training and technical assistance opportunities offered by CPHP at no cost throughout this project.

#### **How will the assessment be completed?**

In addition to this survey, the assessment will include an analysis of publicly available secondary data, (e.g. Annual Financial Report data, ODH's Profile and Performance Database and selected documentation required by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)).

#### **Will CPHP be conducting site visits?**

No. Site visits are not a part of this project.

#### **What kind of information is being requested by the survey?**

This survey component of this assessment addresses several types of information:

- 1) Agency readiness for accreditation using selective questions pulled from PHAB Readiness Checklists.
- 2) Training and technical assistance needs as related to both accreditation and shared service agreements
- 3) Public health service provision

#### **How is this project connected to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH)?**

This project is funded through the Ohio Department of Higher Education. However, CPHP is working in conjunction with ODH to inform the assessment and assure that the resulting information and research questions will be of use to both the state and local health departments.

#### **Do agencies (LHDs) have to participate?**

No, participation is voluntary. However, agency responses will be very helpful in ascertaining the current readiness of Ohio's LHDs and to develop services to support LHD accreditation. Agency responses will also provide valuable information to the CPHP about the types of training and technical assistance LHDs may need as they seek accreditation or identify other options for assuring that their populations are served by an accredited entity.

#### **How long will the assessment survey take to complete?**

CPHP anticipates that each survey will take roughly 15 minutes to complete.

#### **What are the risks to participating in this assessment?**

There are minimal risks from participating in the survey.

**What are the benefits to participating?**

Each agency that participates in this assessment will receive an individualized report of the responses for their organization. This report will include general comparisons among similar sized agencies and/or agencies serving similar sized populations (comparison agencies will *not* be identified by name); it will also include a summary of three of the PHAB prerequisite document (Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, and Emergency Operations Plan/Emergency Response Plan) review. Organizations that participate in this assessment will be providing information that will be used to inform training opportunities offered through the project, and no-cost technical assistance will also be available to those agencies that participate in the assessment.

**If agencies' documents are reviewed favorably against the PHAB Measures, does this mean that PHAB will consider those documents as having met the Measure, too?**

No. CPHP does not represent or speak for PHAB. Document feedback will be based on our best judgement and our knowledge of and experiences with public health systems, community and organizational planning, and with agency accreditation.

**Will responses be confidential?**

Efforts will be made to keep study-related information confidential. However, there may be circumstances where information must be released by law. Reports will be organized at the agency (LHD) or state level and shared with the individual LHD and ODH.

**Are there incentives for participating?**

No, there are no direct incentives.

**What are survey respondent's rights?**

LHDs may refuse to participate in this study without penalty or may discontinue participation in the assessment at any time.

**Who should I contact if I have questions or concerns?**

For questions about the assessment, contact Ms. Melissa Sever at [Sever.14@osu.edu](mailto:Sever.14@osu.edu). For questions about your rights as a research participant or to talk with someone who is not part of the research team, you may contact Ms. Sandra Meadows in the Office of Responsible Research Practices at 1-800-678-6251.