
Agenda Items for ODH "Together We Can" Calls, weekly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays: email.local.support@odh.ohio.gov

Agenda Items for Joint AOHC-ODH Task Forces - click [here](#) to submit

Ohio News

Tuition Reimbursement Initiative 2026

AOHC received workforce development grant funding from the Ohio Department Health to offer another cycle of the Tuition Reimbursement Initiative in support of Local Health Department (LHD) employees (including Health Commissioners).

Information and new forms are available at aohc.net/reimbursement. This completely new application period opens **June 1, 2026**.

These funds are to support LHD employees who wish to further their education, enhance current skills, and/or prepare for future responsibilities and roles in public health. On-going continuing education offerings are outside the scope of this grant.

Quick Facts:

- **Maximum reimbursement is still \$10,000** total between all the AOHC Tuition Reimbursement Initiative cycles, 2023, 2024-2025 and this current cycle.
- To be eligible, courses must have been/be successfully completed between **January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2026**. Multiple semesters may be submitted on one application form if all courses are completed or currently in progress at the time of submission. A new application must be submitted for each reimbursement request.
- College courses, review courses, and required exam fees leading to a degree, certification or professional designation relevant to work in public health are also acceptable, e.g. Certification in Public Health, REHS, CHES, etc.
- Any current LHD employee can apply as long as the coursework meets the required time period, e.g. a newly hired employee could apply for coursework taken prior to hire.
- **Applications will be accepted June 1 through December 11, or until funds are depleted, whichever comes first.**

- Upon acceptance of tuition reimbursement under this program, the LHD staff member agrees to complete 2 years of service to an Ohio LHD. The 2-year commitment begins at the employment date at the local health department where the applicant is employed at the time of application, OR the date of completion of the first course paid for under the AOHC program, whichever is later.
- Health Commissioners must approve the application and are responsible for reporting to AOHC any employee who does not fulfill the 2-year work agreement.

For more information, contact Kathy Luhn at: aohctuition@gmail.com or 567-242-4838.

Ohio Partners for Cancer Control

The Ohio Partners for Cancer Control (OPCC) is a statewide coalition committed to reducing the burden of cancer across Ohio. Since launching in the early 2000s, OPCC has brought together a diverse network of volunteer stakeholders including physicians, nurses, researchers, nonprofit leaders, cancer centers, universities, professional associations, public health professionals, survivors, and patient and family advocates.

Franklin County Public Health has received grant funding from ODH to coordinate the work of the OPCC. OPCC members collaborate through 17 action-focused workgroups aligned with Ohio's 2021–2030 Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan, concentrating on three key areas:

- Primary Prevention
- Early Detection
- Quality of Life

OPCC believes that lasting progress requires involvement from individuals and organizations of all kinds and that even small actions can make a meaningful difference. As leaders in community health, local health commissioners play a vital role in shaping population-level strategies. OPCC is actively seeking the engagement of Ohio's health departments to strengthen local–state coordination, elevate community perspectives, and accelerate progress toward statewide cancer control goals.

Ways local health departments can get involved:

- Becoming an OPCC member and joining a workgroup aligned with your department's priorities.

- Encouraging staff to volunteer for OPCC leadership roles.
- Supporting policy, environmental, and systems changes for cancer prevention and control.
- Sharing information about cancer prevention and screening resources.
- Partnering with health systems to expand patient navigation and low-cost screening access.
- Helping residents obtain low-cost radon test kits.
- Collaborating on wellness initiatives and community awareness events.
- Providing space for cancer support and survivorship groups.

For more information about OPCC or to become a member, visit:

<https://ohiocancerpartners.org/>

Joint Committee on Data Centers Holds First Hearing

The General Assembly's newly established Joint Committee on Data Centers held its first hearing last week, adopting a mission statement and receiving invited testimony from state agencies and industry representatives.

The committee's mission is to provide Ohioans with accurate and practical information regarding the impacts of data center development across the state. Areas of focus include energy demand and costs, economic impacts on state and local communities, environmental considerations, public safety and national security issues, and public education regarding the data center sector.

Testimony was provided by representatives from the Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, PJM Interconnection, and the Data Center Coalition.

As data center development continues to expand in Ohio, the committee's work may provide insight into potential local impacts related to energy infrastructure, environmental resources, land use, and community planning. The committee is scheduled to hear public testimony on Monday.

Ready or Not 2026: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism

As Trust for America's Health marks its 25th anniversary, this annual report assesses the nation's public health emergency preparedness at a pivotal moment. In 2025, the country faced the most severe flu season in nearly a decade, rising measles outbreaks, continued H5N1 avian influenza activity, and a growing number of extreme weather events—all while the federal systems built over decades to help states prepare for and respond to emergencies came under significant strain.

Ready or Not 2026: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism evaluates the nation's readiness for public health emergencies through 10 indicators of state preparedness, including healthcare workforce mobility, state public health funding, laboratory surge planning, access to paid sick leave, and community water system safety.

Register Now for Digital Accessibility Training

As part of AOHC's ongoing commitment to supporting local health departments in meeting evolving digital accessibility requirements, we encourage members to take advantage of an upcoming virtual training opportunity focused on document remediation and website accessibility.

Through conversations with local health departments across Ohio, AOHC heard a clear and consistent message: what is most needed right now is practical training to help staff understand and implement digital accessibility requirements. In response to that feedback, AOHC is pleased to offer this new training opportunity designed specifically to meet that need.

AOHC is partnering with WebAIM (Web Accessibility In Mind) at Utah State University, widely recognized as the gold standard in digital accessibility training and education. These highly practical sessions are designed to help staff better understand accessibility requirements and build the skills needed to create more accessible digital documents, websites, and public-facing content.

This training series is intentionally designed to support the diverse needs of Ohio's local health departments—from smaller agencies without dedicated IT or communications staff to larger organizations with more specialized internal resources.

Two training cohorts are available:

- [June 24–25, 2026](#) (4-hour virtual session on day one and 2-hour session on day two); with a stronger emphasis on document remediation and accessible document creation) Note: Participants must have Acrobat Pro (not just Acrobat Reader)
- [July 22–23, 2026](#) (4-hour virtual sessions each day; will include some foundational overlap from the June training while placing greater focus on website and web accessibility; google docs)

This initial offering will serve as a pilot training series, giving AOHC the opportunity to gather participant feedback and refine or enhance future sessions based on member needs and experience. If participation and response are strong, AOHC anticipates offering this training series again in the fall, potentially with enhancements informed by this first round.

With increasing focus on ADA digital accessibility compliance for public entities, this is an excellent opportunity for communications staff, administrative professionals, website managers, and anyone responsible for creating public-facing documents or online content to gain valuable hands-on training from one of the nation's leading experts.

Space is limited, and we strongly encourage health departments to identify staff who would benefit from participating in this important pilot opportunity. *No certificates of completion will be issued as part of this training series.* [Click Here to Register!](#)

[Fall Business Meeting Submissions and Awards](#)

We may have just wrapped up our spring meeting and conference, but the calendar keeps moving. Planning is well underway for the AOHC Fall Conference, scheduled for **September 21–23, 2026**, where the Fall Business Meeting will take place.

As we prepare, we are calling on members to help shape the meeting by submitting the following:

- **Bylaws Amendments**—Please submit suggested changes to the [AOHC Bylaws](#) to [Susan Jagers](#) no later than **Friday, July 10, 2026**.
- **Award Nominations**—Complete guidelines and nomination forms are available here: [Criteria and Forms](#). Please submit nominations to [Susan Jagers](#) no later than **Saturday, August 1, 2026**.

Awards include:

- Public Health Distinguished Service Award
- Public Health Guardian Award

- Public Health Life Member Award
- **Resolutions**—Any AOHC member may submit a resolution for consideration at the Fall Business Meeting. Resolutions must be submitted in writing to [Susan Jagers](#) no later than **Saturday, August 22, 2026**.

Next AI Training is Scheduled For June 3

Join us for the June 3 session featuring **Real-World AI Success Stories in Public Health**.

Didn't get a chance to attend the first two trainings or want to share the information with colleagues? You can watch a recording by selecting the webinar tab at this link: <https://www.aohc.net/aws/AOHC/pt/sp/education>.



The poster features a header with icons representing AI (a brain with circuitry), public health (a city skyline with a shield), and the AOHC logo. The main title is 'AI Training for Public Health Professionals'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'AOHC, in coordination with the BTeam, is launching an AI Training Series to help local health department staff understand and responsibly use AI in their daily work while aligning with legal, ethical, and security requirements.' The 'Save the Dates' section lists three sessions:

Session 1: AI Fundamentals and Framework	Session 2: AI Functions and Prompt Engineering	Session 3: Real World Public Health AI Projects
May 6 at 12:00 PM	May 20 at 12:00 PM	June 3 at 12:00 PM
AI Fundamentals, governance, ethics, security, and HIPAA	AI functionality, prompt engineering, and effective use of AI tools	Real-world AI success stories from public health!
Speakers: Brian Klaas (Johns Hopkins) Tatiana Lin (Kansas Health Institute)	Speaker: Flourish and Thrive Labs	Speaker: Esri, Deloitte, Pima County Health Department

Click the Webinar tab [here](#) to add these events to your calendar.

National News

[Public Health Is Local: Engaging Your Member of Congress In-District](#)

On July 23, the NACCHO Government Affairs team will host a webinar where participants will learn how they can educate policymakers on the critical role local health departments play in communities and how recent changes at the federal level have impacted public health work across the nation. We will provide information on how to identify your elected officials and a template for reaching out to schedule meetings in the district. The webinar will be recorded and circulated after. [Register here](#).

[All Local Health Official Call](#)

NACCHO's standing all Local Health Official call builds connections across the LHO community, ensures timely updates, and allows for dialogue and discussion with federal partners on a regular basis. These calls are a direct result of feedback from you, our members, about the need to better connect with each other and federal partners. Please plan to attend monthly to not only hear updates on guidance and initiatives from CDC, FDA, or other federal partners, but also to ask questions and give feedback to ensure federal efforts are workable locally. If you cannot attend, please designate a senior deputy to join when needed. Please do not forward outside the health department.

Dates & Times:

June 25, 2026 03:00 PM

July 23, 2026 03:00 PM

Meeting Registration Link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Funding Opportunities

[Ohio Awarded Rural Health Transformation Funds](#)

On Dec. 29, 2025, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced first-year Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program awards. Ohio will receive a total of \$202,030,262.

The Ohio Department of Health has released two RFPs. Ohio is expected to issue a total of 11 different RFPs—most RFPs will come from the ODH, although Ohio EPA, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Children and Youth will each be issuing an RFP.

RFPs will be posted to the ODH website as they are approved. View RFPs and sign up for notifications on ODH's [RHT webpage](#).

Click [here](#) for a map of the RHT counties of focus.

NACCHO

For more information on all of NACCHO's funding opportunities, click here: <https://www.naccho.org/opportunities/opportunities/funding-opportunities>

Educational Opportunities

AOHC Educational Opportunities in 2026

New Employee Training Delaware Health Department 470 S. Sandusky St. Delaware, Ohio 43015	July 8 November 4
Fiscal Training Embassy Suites, Dublin 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin, Ohio 43017	Oct. 27 - 28, 2026
LEHDS Embassy Suites, Dublin 5100 Upper Metro Place Dublin, Ohio 43017	Oct. 27 - 28, 2026

Registration is open for Fall classes. Click [here](#) for more information and course descriptions.

Fall Conference – September 21-23, 2026

Embassy Suites, Dublin

Ohio CERC Training 2026

ODH is excited to announce that CDC will be instructing three virtual Introduction to Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication (CERC) training courses over the next few months. Each 8-hour course is hosted over two days of 4 hours each. The training is intended to help participants understand CERC principles and recommended practices along with how applying them can help reduce harm during an emergency response. The training course will include in-depth practice in a variety of skills and techniques relevant to crisis and emergency risk communication. To register for a session, please click the hyperlink and be sure to register for **both** day 1 and day 2 of the same session.

Session 1

- [Day 1](#), June 10 12:30pm-4:30pm
- [Day 2](#), June 11 12:30pm-4:30pm

Session 2

- [Day 1](#), June 16 12pm-4pm
- [Day 2](#), June 17 12pm-4pm

Session 3

- [Day 1](#), September 16 8:30am-12:30pm
- [Day 2](#), September 17 8:30am-12:30pm

Attendees must register for and complete both Day 1 and Day 2 of the same session to complete the course. If you have any questions or need assistance before the course, feel free to reach out to cercrequest@cdc.gov. In addition, if you require any accommodations in order to participate in the course, please contact cercrequest@cdc.gov in advance so that they may make arrangements. Please do not share the invitation you receive after registering. Doing so could result in attendance far beyond the capacity to allow for quality training.

This is a small, interactive training. To ensure that you and everyone else gets the maximum benefit from the course, please:

- Set an out of office message or set your status to Do Not Disturb to reduce distractions.
- Come prepared to stay actively engaged throughout the course.
- Share your video, especially during the multiple breakout activities.
- Join the conversations! We learn the most when we can learn from each other.

Online Graduate Public Health Courses Available at Kent State

Kent State University [College of Public Health and Health Sciences](#) is offering asynchronous online for-credit courses for public health professionals in local health departments during the Fall 2026 semester. LHD employees may be able to apply for

tuition reimbursement for these courses through the AOHC Tuition Reimbursement Initiative--please check [program requirements](#).

Staff who have a bachelor's degree may enroll as "graduate guest students" at Kent State. There is no Graduate Record Examination (GRE) requirement. Credit hours taken as a guest student may be applied to a graduate [degree program](#) or [certificate](#) if the individual later decides to pursue a degree.

These online graduate courses are being offered during the Fall 2026 semester. Registration deadline is August 30, 2026.

- Biostatistics in Public Health BST 62019
- Using R in Public Health BST 60010
- Using SAS in Public Health BST 60011
- Using Excel in Public Health BST 60012
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Management EHS 50102
- Food Protection EHS50103
- Clinical Trials Basics EPI 50013
- Clinical Trials Management EPI 50014
- Fundamentals of Public Health Epidemiology EPI 62017
- Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases EPI 63014
- Community Health Needs Assessment HPM 63020
- Health Care Systems HPM 63003
- Public Health Planning, Implementation and Evaluation HPM 63007
- Healthcare Privacy and Security HPM 63008
- Healthcare Compliance I HPM 63009
- Healthcare Compliance II HPM 63010
- Foundations of Effective Public Health Leadership HPM 63018
- Quantitative Methods in Social and Behavioral Science SBS 60002
- Grant Writing SBS 63008

- Social Determinants of Health SBS 64634

Course descriptions can be found [here](#). Please note that some of these courses may not be visible in the schedule of classes – you will need the CRN to register. The online application for guest admission to graduate studies at Kent State can be found [here](#). For additional information contact Karen Baker at kbaker80@kent.edu.

Online asynchronous undergraduate courses are also offered each semester. For additional information contact publichealth@kent.edu.

Hot Topics — H2azaRDS: Test-Driving a New Tool for Local Risk Assessment

From the **Northwest Center for Public Health Practice**: In the June 2026 session of Hot Topics in Practice, presenters Claire Grant, MPH, a Resilience and Preparedness Strategist at DOH, and Evan Mix, JD, MPA, the Assistant Director of Research at the UW's Center for Disaster Resilient Communities (CDRC), introduce H2azaRDS: a tool that helps health jurisdictions produce risk assessments that meet federal requirements for public health emergency preparedness projects and guide strategic investment in local preparedness. By viewing this webinar, participants will explore the motivation for and design of the tool, and see a live walk-through of the assessment process and results.

By the end of the webinar, participants will be able to:

- Explain the importance of and challenges associated with local jurisdictional risk assessment
- Explore the methodology developed at UW to facilitate data-driven local risk assessment
- Identify how the H2azaRDS tool seeks to balance methodological rigor with adaptability to local concerns

[Register today!](#)

From AI Curiosity to AI Readiness: Tools to Help Local Health Departments Prepare for Agentic AI

NACCHO Webinar June 2, 2026 | 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Artificial intelligence is rapidly moving beyond genAI and chatbots and into agent driven workflows, but many local health departments have very real constraints on how they are

able to best utilize this technology. In this 60-minute webinar, we will provide a clear, practical introduction to agentic AI for public health leaders-focusing on examples of where it creates value, where it does not, and a checklist of pragmatic items to have in place before attempting to build AI agents.

This session is intended to set a common foundation and serves as a precursor to the Accenture hands on "Build an AI Agent" workshop at the NACCHO360 Conference in July.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hosted in partnership with Accenture, a gold ABP member, this webinar highlights how organizations can leverage technology, innovation, and human-centered strategies to drive meaningful action and results across the public sector.

PHAB's Refreshed Standards and Measures



PHAB is refreshing the Accreditation Standards & Measures and working to create more flexible processes. Guided by extensive feedback from health departments and informed by years of data, these updates are a refinement, not an overhaul. They are intended to help health departments better navigate the Standards & Measures, pursue continuous quality improvement, benefit from clearer language, and reduce documentation burden.

On Tuesday, June 23 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM ET, we invite you to join PHAB for an informational webinar on the refreshed Accreditation Standards & Measures.

[Register Today](#)

In this webinar, the PHAB team will review the updates and answer questions from health departments at every stage of their Accreditation journey.

With 79 days to go until the updates take effect on July 1, this session is your opportunity to get an early look at what's changing and what it means for your work.

Questions? [Refer to the Refreshed Standards FAQs](#) or email askPHAB@phaboard.org.