

# CDC & APHL Cooperative Agreement OE20-2001 Performance Summary

REPORTING PERIOD: JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

## OE20-2001: ENHANCING PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY CAPABILITIES AND INCREASING CAPACITY

[OE20-2001](#) enhances the effectiveness and operations of public health laboratories (PHLs), individually and as part of a national system. This Cooperative Agreement (CoAg) supports four key strategies and activities to increase the capabilities and capacities of PHLs in nine focus areas. It builds on past and present CoAgS between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the [Association of Public Health Laboratories \(APHL\)](#).



### Strategy 1

Science, Management and Operations



### Strategy 2

Policy, Partnership and Communications



### Strategy 3

Training and Capacity Building



### Strategy 4

Laboratory Quality, Safety, and Informatics

### Focus Areas

- A. Foundational Leadership and Support
- B. Environmental Health
- C. Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmentally Transmitted Diseases
- D. Infectious Diseases
- E. Informatics
- F. Newborn Screening and Genetics
- G. Preparedness and Response
- H. Quality and Safety Systems
- I. Workforce Development

## SELECTED STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

### POLICY, PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS



- Develop policy and issues analyses to promote public health laboratory interests.
- Facilitate information exchange and dissemination between the laboratory community and other partners and audiences in public health, healthcare and beyond.
- Collect and analyze information, create content, and disseminate products to inform target audiences about the role of public health laboratories and the tools and resources available to them.

### TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



- Identify training and workforce development needs among laboratory professionals across diverse settings.
- Develop curriculum frameworks and training and workforce development resources for laboratory professionals across diverse settings.
- Design and implement programs to strengthen the public health laboratory workforce pipeline.

### LABORATORY QUALITY, SAFETY, AND INFORMATICS



- Develop and implement solutions and standards to improve data exchange and interoperability.
- Improve the practice of laboratory quality and safety in public health laboratories.
- Employ emerging methodologies and process improvements in public health laboratories.
- Provide technical assistance to public health laboratories and other partners.
- Identify and address gaps in laboratory preparedness and response to public health threats.

## ABOUT THE RECIPIENT: Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)



APHL works to strengthen laboratory systems serving the public's health in the United States and globally. Its members, known as "public health laboratories," monitor, detect, and respond to health threats. With over 20 years' experience in more than 30 countries, APHL is recognized internationally as a leader in public health laboratory science and practice.

## FOCUS AREA PERFORMANCE MEASURE HIGHLIGHTS JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

### Training and Capacity Building



**100%**

Trainings and workforce development opportunities that were updated and/or developed to address identified priority need.

**100%**

Fellows who were engaged and participated in diverse public health laboratory settings

### Policy, Partnerships, and Communications



**73**

Engagements of interested parties at key APHL collaborations

**442**

Unique page views for new or updated evidence-based tools or resources published to the APHL website

### Laboratory Quality, Safety, and Informatics



**100%**

Formal technical assistance requests fulfilled through Subject Matter Expert services

**50,000**

New reagents and supplies distributed that addressed the identified infrastructure or response capability challenges or gaps

## SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Implementation successes

- The APHL NBS Committee and its subcommittees completed their review and revisions of the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute NBS terms and definitions.
- The APHL NBS program created the NBS Epidemiology User group, composed of epidemiologists, and dried blood spot (DBS) and point-of-care staff from NBS programs, as a venue for members to discuss the various ways they use the data they collect.
- Developed and disseminated the "[Guide to Newborn Screening Results Portals](#)," meeting a need identified during a Hot Topic webinar on NBS results reporting during the pandemic.
- Completed a second round of DataCamp learning licenses for over 30 state NBS program staff to expand and build data analysis, data visualization, and programming skills.

### 2020 NBS Virtual Symposium Highlights

- Over 599 attendees
- 71 speakers
- 16 prerecorded sessions, live Q&As
- 4 live sessions and 5 roundtables
  - APHL Hemoglobinopathies Workgroup held a roundtable and interactive "Discussion of current variations in practice in screening and reporting of alpha- and beta-thalassemia" which drew 55 attendees.
- 40 posters and 13 exhibitors

### Implementation challenges

- Many activities were deprioritized or delayed due to the need for CDC, APHL, and its members to focus on public health emergency response activities.
- With tightening resources and hiring freezes in place due to public health emergency response activities, states were unable to advocate for resources for their programs to hire and/or learn data visualization skills.

### Implementation solutions

- The APHL NBS program issued a data analytics professional development opportunity offering funding to states that demonstrated a need for software, courses, and/or other resources to support their data analysis and visualization efforts.

For more information on the OE20-2001 Cooperative Agreement, please visit: [www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/funding/announcements/oe20-2001/](http://www.cdc.gov/csels/dls/funding/announcements/oe20-2001/)

For questions, please email [DLSEvaluation@cdc.gov](mailto:DLSEvaluation@cdc.gov)

Data Source: Year 1 performance measure data and annual progress reports submitted by recipient.

Last updated 8/2023

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

