

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



Science, Management,
and Operations

22

Number of needs assessment surveys that supported priorities within the nine focus areas of the CoAg

98%

Percent of respondents across 26 committees and subcommittees that agree that their deliverables addressed their annual priorities



Policy, Partnerships,
and Communications

895,473

Number of impressions for evidence-based tools and resources shared on APHL social media platforms

10

Number of peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals for public health laboratory practice



Laboratory Quality, Safety,
and Informatics

25

Number of formal data requests received, with 21 of those fulfilled based on APHL data sharing policy requirement

99%

Percent of 100 PHLs that provided test and equipment capability to respond to the pandemic

SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Implementation Successes

- **Communications:** Published four issues of *Lab Matters* magazine garnering 22,500 page views; generated 816,111 page views of the APHL.org website; published 62 CoAg-funded publications, including technical publications, fact sheets and infographics.
- **Public Policy:** Met with data partners (CSTE, NAPHSIS, HIMSS, ASTHO, NACCHO and Big Cities Health Coalition) regularly through the reporting period, which allowed for continuation of cohesive and timely responses to external organizations' (Congress, White House, federal agencies) interest in CDC's Data Modernization Initiative. These calls also continued to serve as a venue for partners to engage and learn from involved data organizations.
- **Quality Systems & Analytics (QSA):** Sponsored the 2021 APHL Annual Conference session: "Tomorrow's Public Health Laboratory Workforce: Generations Working Together" with 229 participants. 96.6% of the respondents agreed/strongly agreed the content addressed a gap in knowledge/skills.



<https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/lab-matters>

Challenges

- APHL and member laboratories needed to focus resources on response to the pandemic.
- APHL did not have adequate staffing resources to report performance measures under the new centralized M&E and database system.

Opportunities

- **Pandemic Prioritization/Adaption:** Completed key priorities and carried over ongoing activities to Year 2; hold meetings, trainings, conferences virtually when possible.
- **Streamline M&E Process:** Incorporated lessons learned from Year 1 to prioritize performance measures and reporting process for Year 2.
- **Increase Staff M&E Capacity:** Provided training and technical assistance on evaluation to program staff.

From APHL

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

For questions, please email 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)

