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 Communication

- 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 B: Environmental Health

OE20-2001 Cooperative Agreement
Association of Public Health Laboratories

FOCUS AREA PERFORMANCE MEASURE HIGHLIGHTS: JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

Training and Capacity Building

45
Number of trainings and workforce development opportunities delivered to address identified priority needs.

94%
Percent of learners that participated in two webinars for Environmental Health topics for laboratories and self reported an increase in knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Policy, Partnerships, and Communications

96%
Percent of planned evidence-based tools or resources developed according to the workplan.

95
Number of APHL engagements completed.

Laboratory Quality, Safety, and Informatics

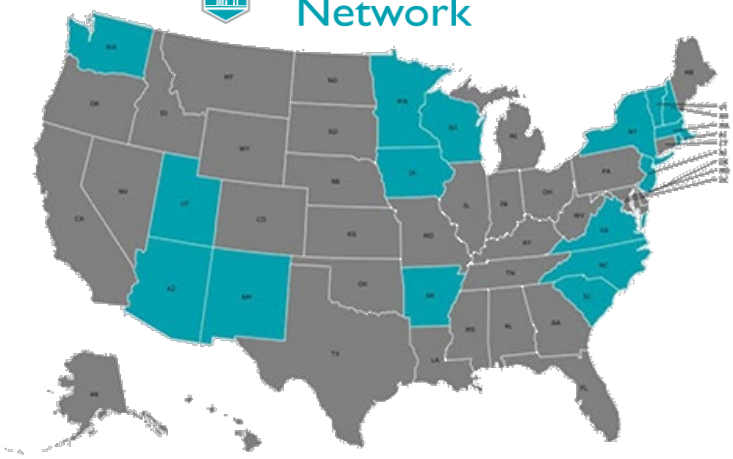
96%
Percent of formal technical assistance (TA) requests fulfilled through SME services.

SUCCESS STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Implementation Successes

- Published guidance on opioids biosurveillance for state programs: the *Model Opioids Biosurveillance Strategy for Public Health Practice* and *Fundamentals of Fentanyl Safety in Public Health Laboratory Settings*.
- Finalized and distributed APHL's fact sheets on lead and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) for APHL's environmental health laboratory communications toolkit.
- Organized and implemented Laboratory Response Network for Chemical Threats (LRN-C) Technical Meetings in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, training 300 attendees per meeting.

National Biomonitoring Network



Participating states are colored in teal above.
Click here for more information.

Implementation Challenges

- An assessment of environmental lab cyanotoxin analytical capability and capacity was delayed due to a shift in focus to wastewater surveillance for SARS-CoV-2.
- Travel restrictions and the inability to meet in-person affected trainings and events within the Training and Capacity Building strategy.

Implementation Solutions

- CDC and APHL engaged with key partners and prioritized projects and timelines with available resources.
- Activities were carried over to the next implementation year.

For more information on the OE20-2001 Cooperative Agreement,
visit: www.cdc.gov/Cooperative Agreement csels/dls/funding/announcements/oe20-2001/
Email questions to DLSEvaluation@cdc.gov
Data source: Year 1 performance measure data and annual progress reports submitted by recipient.
Last updated 8/2023