

2013-2014 Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) for Local Health Departments

FINAL REPORT

1. **Community Description**

Briefly characterize the community(ies) served by your agency (location, population served, jurisdiction type, organization structure, etc.). The purpose of this section is to provide context to a reader who may be unfamiliar with your agency.

The Yolo County Health Department (YCHD) is a local health jurisdiction located in the Sacramento Valley of California. The YCHD serves an estimated 200,000 residents spread over 1,104 square miles. Yolo County consists of four incorporated cities with the largest populated at 65,500. The remaining area is rural agricultural consisting of small towns ranging in population from 300 to 3,000.

The YCHD is governed by the County Board of Supervisors. Members of the board are elected officials that set and adopt policies and establishes programs for law and justice for a number of areas of governance. The YHCD is composed of five branches (Emergency Services; Environmental Health; Fiscal and Operations; Infectious Disease & Children's Medical Services; and Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health), and all programs are administered within their corresponding branches.

2. **Project Overview**

Provide an overview of the work your agency conducted with or because of this funding, including the significant accomplishments/deliverables completed between January 2014-May 2014 and the key activities engaged in to achieve these accomplishments. This should result in a narrative summary of the chart you completed in Part 1, in a format that is easily understandable by others.

The YCHD was able to complete the Community Health Assessment (CHA). We divided the county into seven regions and developed a regional report for each region that summarized the CHA data and provided specific data on health indicators for the specific region. To increase accessibility of the CHA data, we also created seven regional report videos highlighting the key health indicators, challenges, and opportunities of the specific region.

The YCHD developed a work plan to communicate the CHA to community members and how input was solicited. The YCHD decided to conduct community forums throughout the county. Additional materials were developed to inform attendees of the CHA data that included a 2-page summary and fact sheets, which were based on the Community Themes and Strengths Survey results. The fact sheets contained county data and regional data when available along with general health information.

The YCHD developed a work plan for refreshing, monitoring, and analyzing the CHA data. The health indicators were organized by data source. The frequency of the data release for each secondary data source was identified to determine an appropriate time to refresh the data. The YCHD translated the regional reports and fact sheets into Spanish.

3. **Challenges**

*Describe any challenges or barriers encountered as your agency worked to complete the selected deliverables. These can be challenges your agency may have anticipated at the start of the initiative or unexpected challenges that emerged during the course of implementing your proposed activities and completing your deliverables. If challenges were noted in your interim report, please **do** include them here as well. Please include both tangible (e.g., natural disaster, leadership change) and intangible (e.g., lack of staff engagement) challenges.*

The biggest challenge faced by the YCHD was participation in the community forums. Unfortunately, the attendance at the community forums was extremely low. There are several possibilities for the low turnout: community members did not receive the promotional communications; lack of interest; and/or convenience of the forums as far as time and venue. Possible remedies include going to the Board of Supervisors and city councils initially to gather input and buy-in as well as spreading the word. More importantly, is establishing a foundation of community involvement and engagement that would inform future efforts as well as having established relationships to connect with for planning purposes. Another challenge was the limited amount of time to plan and conduct the activities (e.g., compiling the four assessments, developing a communication plan, planning and conducting community forums, printing and translating materials).

4. **Facilitators of Success**

Describe factors or strategies that helped to facilitate completion of your agency's work. These can be conditions at your agency that contributed to your successes or specific actions you took that helped make your project successful or mitigated challenges described above. Please include both tangible (e.g., influx of funds from another source) and intangible (e.g., staff or leadership engagement) facilitators.

The ability to hire two part-time staff to assist in the development of the CHA proved to be invaluable. The scope of work would not have been met within the timeframe.

5. **Lessons Learned**

Please describe your agency's overall lessons learned from participating in the ASI. These can be things you might do differently if you could repeat the process and/or the kinds of advice you might give to other health departments who are pursuing similar accreditation-related funding opportunities or technical assistance activities.

Planning is key. Taking and having the time to plan for activities is crucial to success and quality. Another lesson learned is to have successful community involvement and engagement - there must be a Department-wide approach to build strong partnerships with community members, groups, and organizations within the community.

6. **Funding Impact**

Describe the impact that this funding has had on your agency. How has this funding advanced your agency's accreditation readiness or quality improvement efforts?

The funding has advanced the YCHD's accreditation readiness efforts by supporting the creation of the CHA. The funding also allowed YCHD to complete the CHA in a much shorter timeframe.

7. **Next Steps and Sustainability**

What are your agency's general plans for the next 12-24 months in terms of accreditation preparation and quality improvement? How will the work completed as part of the ASI be sustained moving forward?

The next steps for the YCHD in the next year is to follow the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships process to develop our Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Once these two items are complete, the YCHD will apply for public health accreditation. The YCHD will further develop its Quality Improvement Plan and Workforce Development Plan. The CHA will aide in developing the Community Health Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. These three documents will guide future efforts by the YCHD.