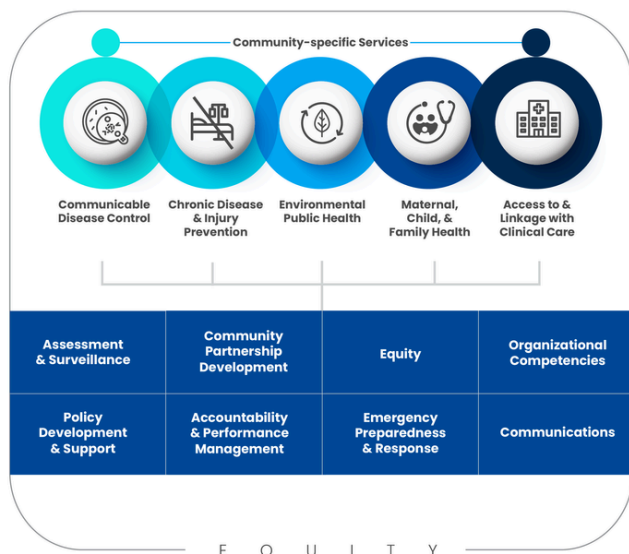


Foundational Public Health Services Overview

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's [Office of Local and Regional Health \(OLRH\)](#) plans to adopt the national Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Framework as envisioned in the 2019 Blueprint for Public Health Excellence report, and tailor it to be specifically relevant to Massachusetts – in what we are calling our Massachusetts Relevant Description Process. By utilizing [best practices from other states](#) that have gone through the FPHS Description Process and integrating local public health voices into the Steering Committee and 13 Advisory Teams, the OLRH is working to ensure the Massachusetts Example Supplement of the FPHS Framework is feasible and appropriate for Massachusetts' local public health system.

Foundational Public Health Services



February 2022

The FPHS Framework defines a minimum set of public health services that must be available in every municipality. While local public health is not directly responsible for providing all these services, they are responsible for ensuring that these services are available to their municipalities through other entities.



BME STRATEGIES

Why FPHS?



Establishes A Minimum Set of Services

The FPHS Framework offers a common language to communicate how local public health agencies in Massachusetts impact the residents they serve. Establishing a unified language and a minimum set of public health services statewide will encourage communication, resulting in enhanced efficiency and ensuring that all residents have equitable access to FPHS across the entire state. In 2022, the National FPHS Framework was revised to ensure its language reflects the evolving nature and modernization of governmental public health.



Coordinate Resources

The FPHS Framework assists local public health in assessing current services provided, identifying areas for improvement, and exploring collaborations with other organizations to be able to effectively meet the needs of all residents. It offers an opportunity to assess services, identify areas for improvement, and explore collaborations with other organizations.



Quality Improvement

The FPHS Framework is designed to strengthen the public health system by focusing on continuous quality improvement, accountability, and performance management. Quality improvement initiatives aim to bolster staffing, funding, and training, further strengthening the public health system for collaborative innovation and resource sharing. The FPHS Framework will support local public health workforce development planning. Future capacity and expertise reviews will inform quality improvement activities, including emphasis on the exploration of innovative sharing arrangements among partners.



Connections to Accreditation

Implementing the FPHS Framework helps local public health align with the [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#) accreditation standards, ensuring standardized, high-quality public health service delivery. This fosters consistency and quality while supporting the accreditation journey.



Contact Katie Roane at
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FPHS RESOURCES

FPHS Educational Materials Review

| Resource | Description |
|---|--|
| <p><u>PHAB FPHS Learning Module</u></p> <p><i>The Foundational Public Health Services: A Framework for Systems Change.</i></p> | <p>This learning module provides an interactive opportunity to explore the history and evolution of FPHS, the role of equity in this Framework, and the technical components of the Framework (Foundational Areas and Capabilities).</p> |
| <p><u>FPHS Framework Components</u></p> <p><i>Below on page 4 of this document</i></p> | <p>The fourth page of this document provides an in-depth look into the FPHS Framework components. It also explores the addition of the <i>Massachusetts Examples and Accreditation Measures</i> to the Massachusetts Relevant Description Process.</p> |
| <p><u>FPHS Factsheet</u></p> | <p>The FPHS Factsheet contains high-level definitions of the public health infrastructure and programs required for health departments to provide basic protections to the communities they serve.</p> |
| <p><u>PHAB FPHS Operational Definitions</u></p> | <p>This document outlines operational definitions for all 13 Foundational Areas and Capabilities, breaking them down into <i>Headline Responsibilities</i> and discrete FPHS Activities.</p> |
| <p><u>Foundational Public Health Services Communication Log</u></p> | <p>All information related to FPHS shared in LBOH Webinars and the <i>Pulse</i> newsletter is documented here. This document serves as a repository for communications with LPH.</p> |
| <p><u>PHAB Website</u></p> | <p>The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) offers resources from other states that have undergone FPHS, training modules, and information on innovation and accreditation.</p> |

FPHS FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES & AREAS

Foundational Capabilities (FC) - Public Health infrastructure consists of 8 Foundational Capabilities that are the crosscutting skills and capacities needed to support basic public health protections, programs, and activities key to ensuring community health, well-being, and achieving equitable outcomes.



Accountability & Performance Management: Uphold accountability through adherence to accepted business practices, relevant policies, and public health accreditation, while establishing a performance management structure and initiating quality improvement measures.



Assessment & Surveillance: Establish and sustain comprehensive public health infrastructure including assessment, analysis, collaboration, surveillance, epidemiology, vital records, and laboratory components.



Community Partnership Development: Establish and sustain relationship-building capabilities, forge strategic partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities, cultivate trust within communities, and utilize collaborative processes for creating health improvement plans focused on identified priorities.



Communications: Establish and sustain a comprehensive public communications infrastructure, including the development and maintenance of public health education and risk communication capabilities.



Emergency Preparedness & Response: Define and fulfill governmental public health's responsibilities in incident preparedness, response, and recovery, involving the development, exercise, and maintenance of plans, ensured continuity of operations, and effective response and recovery from incidents.



Equity: Demonstrate agency commitment to equity and actively influence public and external organizational policies to advance equitable principles.



Organizational Competencies: Uphold a comprehensive governance structure, set strategic public health direction, and ensure access to services encompassing information technology, privacy, security, human resources, financial management, contracting, procurement, facilities, operations, and legal services.



Policy Development & Support: Collaboratively develop, amend, and enact public health policies with partners, policymakers, and communities, actively participating in relevant initiatives and supporting the implementation of enacted policies.

Foundational Areas (FA) - Public Health programs, or Foundational Areas, are basic public health, topic-specific programs and services aimed at improving the health of the community. These 5 Foundational Areas reflect the minimum level of service that should be available in all communities.



Access to & Linkage with Clinical Care: Develop and implement a comprehensive plan addressing gaps and barriers to ensure access to clinical care services, involving timely information dissemination, population-based strategies, collaborative efforts for policy changes, and monitoring the quality and compliance of healthcare facilities and providers.



Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention: Formulate and implement a comprehensive chronic disease and injury prevention plan, incorporating timely and accurate information dissemination, population-based strategies, and collaborative efforts to influence policy, system, and environmental changes for improved health outcomes.



Communicable Disease Control: Develop, implement, and enforce a comprehensive communicable disease prevention plan, including timely and accurate information dissemination, population-based programs, collaborative policy efforts, disease investigations, outbreak responses, and participation in a statewide immunization program.



Environmental Public Health: Create and execute a comprehensive environmental health promotion plan, including timely and accurate information dissemination, population-based programs, collaborative efforts to influence stakeholders, active response to environmental threats, and mandated inspections to ensure public safety in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.



Maternal, Child, & Family Health: Formulate and execute a comprehensive maternal and child health plan, incorporating timely and accurate information dissemination, population-based strategies, collaborative efforts for policy and environmental changes, and ensuring compliance with mandated newborn screenings and follow-ups.

MASSACHUSETTS DESCRIPTION PROCESS COMPONENTS

FPHS National Framework Components

Foundational Area & Foundational Capability

Foundational Areas represent the overarching fundamental categories of public health services, forming the essential framework for a comprehensive public health system (e.g., Communicable Disease). Foundational Capabilities encompass the cross-cutting skills or functional capacities necessary to support and enhance the Foundational Areas (e.g., Assessment & Surveillance).

Headline Responsibility

Headline Responsibilities are summary statements of the core activities that governmental public health should deliver. These aim to describe the minimum services of ‘what’ should be provided but not ‘how’ they should be provided.

FPHS Activity

FPHS Activities are specific actions to facilitate delivery of the FPHS (*Headline Responsibilities*). These *Activities* serve as examples of the varied tasks that make up each Foundational Area and Foundational Capability. Please note that each *Headline Responsibility* may have multiple associated *Activities*.

Massachusetts Relevant Description Process - Additional Component

Massachusetts Example

The addition of the *Massachusetts Examples* aim to provide relevant Massachusetts-specific examples as additional context for the *Headline Responsibilities*. *Massachusetts Examples* are specific, actionable, and deliverable statements tailored to local public health in Massachusetts. Each *Headline Responsibility* may have multiple associated *Massachusetts Examples*, or none at all if the *FPHS Activities* provide sufficient context.

Massachusetts Examples are not currently included in the national FPHS Framework, but they will be added during the FPHS Massachusetts Relevant Description Process.

Connection to Accreditation

Accreditation Measure

Accreditation Measures align with the PHAB Accreditation Standards & Measures, establishing a link between the FPHS Framework and accreditation. *Accreditation Measures* are specific actions needed to meet accreditation standards. These will serve as a guide for local public health agencies that have gone through the accreditation process and further supporting accreditation efforts throughout Massachusetts. *Headline Responsibilities* can have multiple associated *Accreditation Measures* or none at all.

Accreditation Measures are not currently included in the national FPHS Framework. Please note that these *Accreditation Measures* will be added during the FPHS Massachusetts Relevant Description Process for accreditation context.