

NACCHO Stages of EBPH Capacity Acquisition

Knowledge acquisition: Knowledge of competencies required for evidence-based public health (EBPH), implementation/adaptation steps, evaluation planning steps, Community Guide (CG) strategies relevant to their work, and solutions to common barriers encountered in implementing EBPH.¹

Confidence acquisition: Confidence to make programmatic decisions on the basis of evidence, carry out evaluation activities, and build infrastructure to support EBPH.

Skills acquisition: Demonstrated ability to prioritize, select, adapt, implement, and evaluate CG recommendations and address barriers to implementing selected recommendations.

Resource acquisition: Access to tools, resources, partners, and subject matter experts to support navigation through common challenges related to implementation of EBPH. Ability to write quality action plans and funding proposals.

Capacity acquisition: Full transition through stages one through four, plus development of infrastructure to support systematic implementation of EBPH (i.e., buy-in from LHD leadership, policies and protocols supporting EBPH, cross-training of staff, and capacity for integration of EBPH across the organization).

Adoption: Implementation of CG recommendations in target jurisdictions; evaluation of outcomes and impact; dissemination of lessons learned; peer-to-peer relationships established with other LHDs to support widespread adoption of EBPH.

NACCHO's Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making and Planning

Through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NACCHO undertook an initiative to improve the adoption and use of evidence-based approaches to preventive services among LHDs by promoting the use of the CG. Through the cooperative agreement, NACCHO awarded demonstration grants to five LHDs to do the following: (1) increase their capacity to incorporate the use of evidence in their decision-making and planning efforts; and (2) use the CG as a primary resource in selecting evidence-based strategies/recommendations for planning prevention programs. NACCHO developed the Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making and Planning (Figure 1) to structure its technical assistance and workforce development activities targeting grantees. Designed to transition grantees through six stages of capacity acquisition for evidence-based decision-making developed by NACCHO, the framework required LHD sites to build upon data collected from their community health improvement plans to write a problem statement, conduct evidence reviews, and develop an action plan to implement a CG recommendation to address a public health concern in their jurisdiction. The framework helps LHDs build upon existing assets by implementing key tenets of EBPH, as defined by Brownson and colleagues.⁴

These tenets inform NACCHO's six steps for using the CG to improve LHD planning and assessment efforts, which are the actions prescribed by the framework. These steps were adapted from Brownson and colleagues' six-stage process for evidence-based decision-making.⁴

Figure 1: NACCHO's Framework for Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Planning (FEDMP)

