

Background

Governmental public health departments seek to respond and address ongoing public health challenges despite chronic underfunding, staffing shortages, and crumbling and outdated infrastructures and systems intended to 'hold up' their ability to implement programs and respond to crises.

Increased awareness around the multiple crises that the public health field face has presented an opportunity for transformation. Additional federal funding, support from national stakeholders, and new commitments to achieve racial and health equity have presented a moment like never before to transform the United States public health system.

About PHNCI at PHAB

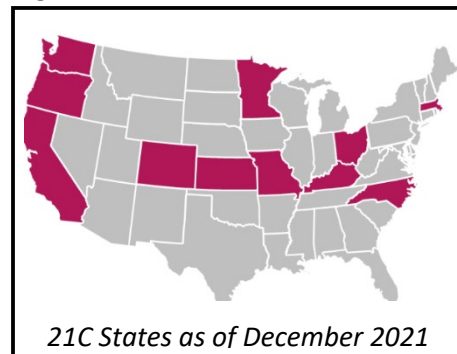
The [Public Health National Center for Innovations](#) (PHNCI) at the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB) supports transformation and innovation and is well positioned to continue to drive the field to meet future public health needs. Since 2015, PHNCI has been home to the [Foundational Public Health Services](#) (FPHS), a framework for modernizing public health systems and transforming public health practice. PHNCI leads the 21st Century Learning Community (21C), a group of 11 states at various stages of implementing the FPHS.

21st Century Learning Community Expansion

Beginning January 2022, PHNCI will expand efforts to advance public health transformation and modernization through the 21st Century Learning Community (21C). Currently, 11 participating states are using the Foundational Public Health Services to modernize and transform their governmental public health systems (i.e., state, local, Tribal).

PHNCI will expand 21C to include 10-15 additional states who are focused on intentional state-wide public health system transformation. 21C members will engage in peer networking and learning in large and small group settings, have access to enterprise-wide technical assistance, and contribute to building the knowledgebase around public health transformation and modernization.

21C states are leaders in developing an understanding of a state's approach to transformation, conducting capacity and costing assessments, making the case for sustainable funding for core public health, advancing equity, and exploring various models for workforce and service sharing. Through the expanded 21C, PHNCI will support states in strategic positioning and engagement with key state stakeholders to leverage short term federal funding to set up long term gains and shape the public health system of the future.



21C States as of December 2021

Strategies

PHNCI will drive transformation and modernization through efforts to:

- Actively recruit and onboard new states engaged in state-wide public health transformation – states must be taking a system-wide approach to transformation and have a vision and strategy for their work;
- Engage a subset of states in examining and implementing recommendations from [RWJF's National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems](#)
- Define public health transformation and what a reimagined public health system could look like on a state-by-state basis;
- Provide opportunities for 21C members to engage in learning, communication, and sharing of emerging practices with peers. Events will include deep dives on topics such as data modernization, service sharing, workforce, equity, costing/assessment, and more;
- Provide technical assistance and access to subject matter experts;
- Ensure coordination across various national and regional initiatives focused on public health transformation and modernization to share practices, data, and align efforts as appropriate.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Reena Chudgar at rchudgar@phnci.org or visit phnci.org/transformation for updates.