

## Strengthening Public Health

Through pursuing its mission to ‘advance and transform public health practice by championing performance improvement, strong infrastructure and innovation,’ the [Public Health Accreditation Board \(PHAB\)](#) is committed to improving the lives of all people in all communities through our initiatives, like accreditation, 21<sup>st</sup> Century public health, the Foundational Public Health Services, and Pathways Recognition Program.

## About PHNCI at PHAB

Since 2015, the [Public Health National Center for Innovations \(PHNCI\)](#) at the PHAB has fostered public health innovation, modernization, and transformation by developing resources, convening learning communities, building relationships with key stakeholders, and supporting efforts to advance equity.

PHNCI is uniquely positioned to bring together practitioners and thought leaders in this work; currently, PHNCI is home to the [Foundational Public Health Services \(FPHS\)](#), which serve as the basis for transformational efforts across state, local, and Tribal public health systems. PHNCI also leads the [21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community \(21C\)](#), 11 states at various stages of implementing the FPHS and transforming their state public health systems as they build infrastructure, workforce, and advance equity.

## Reimagining Public Health

Now is the time to reimagine and transform public health systems to best advance health and equity for all people. Reimagining means doing things differently than they have been done in the past. It means investing in and modernizing the core infrastructure, data modernization, and workforce needed for public health to thrive. It means collaborating across sectors, agencies, and jurisdictions. And it means centering equity and lived experiences and expertise in decision making.

## Overview

Building from our existing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community, PHNCI will continue to foster innovation to drive modernization and transformation by:

- [Expanding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community \(21C\)](#) to an additional 10-15 states who are taking a state-wide systems approach to modernizing and transforming governmental public health systems. The expanded 21C will broaden its participation criteria to include additional states who are focused on intentional state-wide public health system transformation. 21C members will engage in peer networking and learning, have access to enterprise-wide technical assistance, and contribute to building the knowledgebase around public health transformation and modernization. Areas of focus may include sustainable funding models, service sharing and delivery, & Tribal Foundational Public Health Services.
- [Launching a new 18-month initiative to advance equitable data infrastructure and systems modernization](#) through:
  - Engaging up to three 21C state public health systems working across sectors to begin implementing recommendations from [RWJF’s National Commission to Transform Public Health Data Systems](#).
  - Developing an excellence program that recognizes health departments who are conducting exemplary work related to data modernization.
- Ensure coordination across various national and regional initiatives focused on public health transformation and modernization.

## Strategies

PHNCI will drive transformation and modernization through efforts to:

- Actively recruit and onboard new states for 21C;
- Define public health transformation and what reimaged public health systems could look like on a state-by-state basis;
- Engage up to three 21C state public health systems to begin implementing RWJF’s [National Commission recommendations](#);
- Develop a strategy and guide to support states in utilizing federal funding to intentionally advance modernization efforts;
- Create opportunities for sharing emerging practices from states around service sharing, workforce models, costing and assessment, and more;
- Foster an understanding of commonalities/differences in various transformation efforts to advance learning;
- Identify opportunities for alignment across related initiatives.

**Interested in getting involved?** Contact Reena Chudgar at [rchudgar@phnci.org](mailto:rchudgar@phnci.org) or visit [phnci.org/transformation](https://phnci.org/transformation) for updates.