Staffing Up: Determining Public Health Workforce Levels Needed to Serve the Nation

**Partners**
The Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI), a division of the Public Health Accreditation Board, identifies, implements, and spreads innovations in public health practice to help meet the health challenges of the 21st century in communities nationwide. PHNCI acts as a leader to coordinate and align national initiatives and share innovative ideas as communities transform to improve health outcomes.

The de Beaumont Foundation creates and invests in bold solutions to build healthier communities. The foundation advances policy, builds partnerships, and strengthens public health to create communities where people can achieve their best possible health.

**Workforce Initiatives**
Staffing Up is part of a larger effort to strengthen and align workforce development in public health, including the development and release of a Public Health Workforce Agenda, led by the de Beaumont Foundation and a National Consortium.

**Learn More and Get Involved**
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**Background**
Since 2008, there has been a 20% decrease in the governmental public health workforce, which was already operating with minimally sufficient levels of staff. Continued funding reductions (which led directly to staff reductions) have severely impacted staffing capacity and hindered the ability of our nation’s health departments to protect and promote health in the communities they serve.

The COVID-19 crisis has increased awareness of these critical gaps. However, a lack of consistent data on the current state of public health infrastructure, including funding and staffing, makes it difficult to identify and champion the appropriate level of staffing needed to respond to public health needs.

**About the Initiative**
The Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) is partnering with the de Beaumont Foundation on a workforce initiative, “Staffing Up: Determining Public Health Workforce Levels Needed to Serve the Nation.” The goal of the initiative is to develop a national estimate of staffing needed to perform the foundational public health services. The estimate will support efforts to ensure sufficient funding for the public health system in the United States.

A Steering Committee and a Research Advisory Committee, including representatives from state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments, federal partners, non-governmental partners, and academia are advising the effort.

**Project Period:** September 2020-July 2021

To learn more, visit http://phnci.org/national-frameworks/staffing-up.

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