



Multi-State Learning Collaborative II: Quality Improvement in the Context of Assessment and Accreditation (MLC-2)

BACKGROUND

MLC-2 follows the successful MLC-1 project, in which five states enhanced their efforts to use performance and capacity standards in assessing the work and capacity of public health agencies.

In addition to increasing knowledge about performance assessment and accreditation, MLC-1 contributed to the growing enthusiasm and momentum for developing a national accreditation program by informing the work of the Exploring Accreditation (EA) project, which has developed recommendations for launching a national voluntary accreditation system for public health departments.

The EA project recommends that accreditation standards should be developed to promote the pursuit of excellence, continuous quality improvement, and accountability for the public's health. In addition, several MLC-1 participants indicated that constituents involved in their assessment/accreditation programs are demanding that quality improvement be the primary focus of their program.

GOAL OF MLC-2

Responding to the need to integrate quality improvement into assessment efforts, the goal of MLC-2 is to explore numerous quality improvement techniques and methods for incorporating these techniques into existing performance and capacity assessment or accreditation efforts. Lessons learned from the participant states will contribute significantly to the continued enhancement of activities focused on accountability, performance in public health, and quality improvement.

MLC-2 WILL

- Bolster the public health performance assessment programs in ten states with funding to support the application of quality improvement techniques into existing programs;
- Convene the participating states to explore numerous quality improvement methods and techniques used within public health and other industries;
- Produce documents and tools in collaboration with national partners that will serve as resources and demonstration pieces to aid quality improvement efforts for public health; and
- Inform the public health practice community about the proceedings, findings, and products of the project.

THE PARTICIPATING STATES

Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina and Washington participated in the first phase of the project. Five additional states joined the second phase of the project, including: Florida, Kansas, Minnesota, New Hampshire and Ohio.

ACTIVITIES

- National Conference Presentations
- Site Visits to the Participating States
- Peer Networking & Technical Support
- National Teleconferences on Quality Improvement
- Open Forum for applicant states, partners and interested parties

In addition to participating in the activities listed above, the MLC-2 states are conducting projects through which they will explore and apply quality improvement techniques in the context of their own existing assessment/accreditation programs. Some example projects include:

- Develop logic models and numerous tools, including tools for assessment, technical assistance, and public health improvement
- Develop local standards and credentialing expectations
- Revise performance assessment/accreditation programs including revision of a program's design and standards, and revision of a performance improvement process to align with national accreditation standards
- Make recommendations regarding the workforce training and support system needed to effectively institutionalize quality improvement
- Enhance or create training opportunities, including a QI videoconference training, a train-the-trainer program, an online orientation to standards and their use, and curricula that focus on the workforce and peer reviewers.
- Evaluate reports and documentation of best practices

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the MLC website at:

<http://www.nnphi.org/home/section/1-15//view/39/>

Or Contact:

Liz Tagle at etagle@nnphi.org

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