



APC Advocate Guide

APC Roadshow
Covington, Kentucky
April 2010



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

What is an APC Advocate?

Public health preparedness practitioners participating in this training will gain invaluable knowledge, APC products to supplement their preparedness efforts, and new connections and networks of professional support. In return, participants who attend this training are asked to serve as an advocate for the preparedness knowledge and resources shared by the Advanced Practice Centers.

What does it mean to be an “APC Advocate”?

As an “APC Advocate,” participants will apply what they learned in this training to their practice and share this knowledge with others in their organization, community, or other local health departments.

How can an APC Advocate share information?

There are many ways an APC Advocate can share the knowledge and resources of the Advanced Practice Centers. This may include:

- * A community presentation about the program and/or specific tools;
- * A brown-bag lunch session with colleagues;
- * A meeting with a partner organization;
- * A State Association of County & City Health Officials’ (SACCHO) meeting; or
- * Regular conference calls or meetings.

What resources are in this Guide for the APC Advocate?

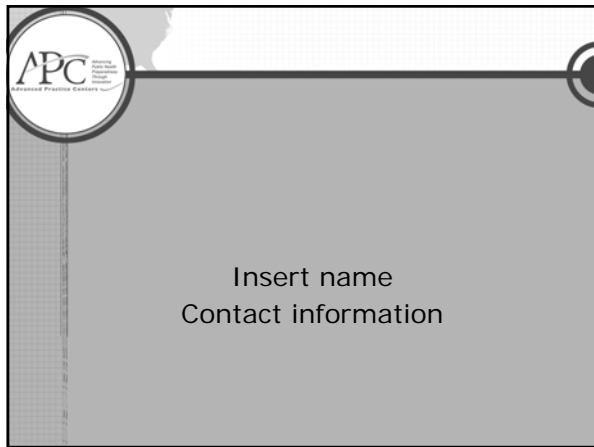
In this guide you will find: (All items can be downloaded from www.naccho.org/roadshowinfo)

- * A PowerPoint presentation;
- * Background about the APC program;
- * Frequently Asked Questions;
- * An APC fact sheet that can be reproduced; and
- * A form to update NACCHO.

Questions?

If at any time you have a question about the program or an APC product, contact Stephanie Stevens at sstevens@naccho.org or (202) 507-4230.





What is an Advanced Practice Center?

- Each Advanced Practice Center (APC) is a local health department—one that has been tasked with addressing priorities in public health preparedness.
- APCs serve the public health community by:
 - providing tools and resources;
 - educational materials;
 - trainings; and
 - technical assistance to help public health practitioners address local preparedness challenges.

The History of the APCs

- In 2003, NACCHO, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, awarded five local health departments the opportunity to serve as *Advanced Practice Centers*.
- Additional sites were selected and funded in 2004; in 2006, an APC was added to serve as the national model for rural public health.
- For a listing of current APC sites, visit www.naccho.org/apc

APCs Address Many Topic Areas

- Vulnerable Populations
- Biosurveillance
- Radiological Response
- Environmental Health
- Food Safety
- Mutual Aid
- Public Education
- Rural Health
- Personal Preparedness
- Risk Communication
- Mass Dispensing
- Pandemic Influenza
- Mass Fatality
- Volunteers
- Workforce Development

Innovative Tools and Resources



Innovative Tools and Resources

- All APC products are **FREE** of charge.
- Many of the products are available in PDF format; others may need to be ordered from the NACCHO Bookstore.
- Most products are **CUSTOMIZABLE** to fit the needs and identities of local communities.
- Visit the online **APC Toolbox** and search for products by topic or state: www.naccho.org/toolbox.
- A product catalog will be available fall 2009.

Ongoing Assessment

- Every product produced by the APC is continually and independently evaluated to ensure it meets the needs of those working to prepare America's communities.

Ongoing Assessment

- A recent survey found APC products help public health departments:
 - Standardize the work they perform;
 - Save time and money by increasing organizational capacity;
 - Heighten awareness about preparedness issues; and
 - Help staff better understand their roles in a public health emergency.

What Others Are Saying...

"This is a a fantastic resource for local public health agencies so that we aren't each re-inventing the wheel. The APC concept is brilliant- and we thank you for your great leadership."

- Local Public Health Director

"...their [APC's] work was top notch, proven, and packaged for distribution. You can't beat it!"

- APC Training Conference Participant

For More Information, or to Find APC Products, Visit:

www.naccho.org/APC



Background

Each day, local health departments (LHD) work on the front lines to combat threats to the health of their communities. However, a significant number of LHDs across the United States still lack the crucial resources and in-house expertise to effectively plan for such severe threats as pandemic influenza, emerging infectious diseases, terrorism, and catastrophic natural disasters. Furthermore, many local public health officials struggle to obtain essential resources that can facilitate their planning, assessment, and implementation efforts. As a result, these LHDs may not be fully equipped with the tools and knowledge needed to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the full range of public health threats in an effective and efficient manner.

In 2003, NACCHO established the “Advanced Practice Centers” (APCs) Program in collaboration with the CDC to provide LHDs with access to critical public health preparedness resources. For the last five years, the APC network has been at the forefront of public health preparedness. At a time when local programs are receiving reduced support from federal resources, the APC network has been available to provide LHDs nationwide with a wealth of public health preparedness resources and training opportunities. This program has saved many LHDs the unnecessary time and resources spent on duplication of work. The APC network served as a vital knowledge hub by providing LHDs across the United States with preparedness tools that can be quickly and easily integrated into local plans, procedures, and practices. Over the years, these tools have become essential instruments that LHDs nationwide have employed to assess their vulnerability and to strengthen their response capacity.

Mission

The unique mission of the APC network is to *promote innovative and practical solutions that enhance the capabilities of all LHDs and the public health system to prepare for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies*. The network serves the public health community nationwide by strengthening public health preparedness among localities that lack specialized resources and expertise. Each APC site is tasked with developing and distributing cutting-edge resources that public health professionals can quickly and easily tailor to fit the unique needs of their communities and regions. These innovative, progressive, and practical preparedness resources and training tools are freely available and can be tailored to meet a community’s needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an Advanced Practice Center (APC)?

A: Each APC is a local health department—one that has been tasked with addressing a particular public health preparedness challenge. Advanced Practice Centers exist to serve the public health community, providing resources ranging from training tools to prepare for and respond to mass casualty incidents to public education materials to tools to help you reach vulnerable populations.

Q: Where do I find APC products?

A: All APC-developed products are freely available and can be tailored to fit your community's unique needs. Visit the APC Toolbox, found at www.naccho.org/toolbox and search for products by topic or state or select a product. An APC product catalog will be available fall 2009.

Q: How much do APC products cost?

A: All APC products are **free** of charge. Many of the resources are available for download in PDF format. Others may need to be ordered from the NACCHO Bookstore. In this instance, minimal shipping and handling charges may apply.

Q: Are APC products evaluated?

A: Yes, every product produced by the APCs is continually and independently evaluated to ensure that it effectively meets the needs of those working to prepare America's communities. In fact, a recent survey found that APC products have not only helped public health departments standardize the work they perform and train their communities, but also can:

- Save time and money by increasing organizational capacity;
- Heighten awareness about emergency preparedness issues; and
- Help staff better understand roles in a public health emergency.

Q: Where is there more information about the APC program?

A: Visit www.naccho.org/apc for more information.



THE ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTER PROGRAM

In November 2003, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded five local health departments (LHDs) the opportunity to serve as *Advanced Practice Centers* (APCs). At the core of the APC program is the belief that the innovative, progressive work of exemplary LHDs, shared broadly with the public health community, can help address the preparedness challenges facing communities throughout the country.

As a result of increased program funding three additional sites were selected and funded in September 2004. In June 2006, an APC was selected to serve as the national model for rural public health. APCs now exist in a majority of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Regions, providing LHDs across the country with tools to help them prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

The APCs focus their work on the following priority areas:

- Bisureillance
- Vulnerable populations
- Workforce development and training
- Communications and information sharing
- Mass medical countermeasures
- Partnerships and collaborations
- Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive preparedness
- Surge capacity
- Mass fatality management
- Legal authority and liability
- Critical infrastructure protection
- Disaster behavioral health
- Exercises and events
- Natural disaster preparedness

ADVANCED PRACTICE CENTERS ACCOMPLISH IMPORTANT WORK

The Advanced Practice Centers ...

- Develop and promote innovative products for easy adoption by other public health jurisdictions to improve their public health emergency planning and response.
- Build and strengthen cooperation and coordination with community partners to help save lives in the event of a public health emergency. Partners may include the media, fire and police departments, medical schools and schools of public health, hospitals and other local and state departments of health.
- Develop interactive exercises that use mock scenarios to engage, educate, and train participants – exercises that can be customized for use in any local health department.
- Share resources and tools with the public health community through the APC Toolbox.
- Conduct trainings and provide technical assistance.

LOOK FOR APC PRODUCTS ON THE WEB

APC tools may be downloaded via the online toolbox, www.naccho.org/toolbox.

By developing cutting-edge tools and resources for broad dissemination and sharing lessons learned, APCs help LHDs do more with less.

For more information contact Anne Drabczyk, Program Manager at (202) 507-4221, or at adrabczyk@naccho.org.

For more information about the APCs, visit: www.naccho.org/apc.

