

2022 Innovative Practice Award Application

All official applications must be submitted through the [online application system](#) by December 31, 2021, at 11:59 PM EST. Please email awards@naccho.org with any questions.

Practice Title: _____

Overview

The 2022 Innovative Practice Award recognizes and honors programs and practices that have been quickly and/or creatively developed in response to COVID-19. Awarded practices will demonstrate clear strategies and success in addressing health inequities, effective community partnerships and collaboration, adaptability and quality improvement, and remarkable innovation, but will have not undergone the same in-depth evaluation process as Model Practices.

Please provide a summary of your program addressing the following:

- Brief description of local health department (LHD): location, demographics of population served in your community.
- Describe how the practice responded to COVID-19 health inequities / what factors and population(s) it addressed.
- Goals and objectives of the practice.
- How was the practice implemented / activities
- Initial results or findings.
- Specific factors or steps that led to its success in reducing health inequities.
- Public health impact of practice

Please provide the overview of your practice.

Word Count: 500 Word Maximum

Section 1: Innovation

An Innovative Practice must be -

1. New to the field of public health, and not just new to your health department, OR
2. A creative use of an existing health equity tool, practice, or resource. Examples of an innovative use of an existing health equity tool or practice include leveraging community partners and/or centering the experiences and leadership of directly impacted persons to meet the needs of a specific population, adapting tools or practices from a different discipline, use of new technology, or improving content.

Please include the following in your response:

- Statement of the specific public health problem / what target population(s) was affected by the program (include demographics, if possible).
 - How was the public health program affected by COVID-19 or what aspect of COVID-19 health inequities did your new program address?
 - How did your program seek to address the needs of the population(s) being most impacted by health inequities in your community?
- If your program directly addresses an existing public health problem other than COVID-19, what has been done in the past to address health inequities caused by this problem before the pandemic?
 - Why is the current practice better than what was previously done?
- How is the current practice innovative?
 - Is it new to the field of public health? Explain.
 - Is it a new use of an existing health equity tool, practice, or resource? Explain.
- How did this practice quickly and creatively adapt to the emergence of COVID-19 in your community?
 - How were existing resources, such as staff, technology, and skills, innovatively used?
- What was the local context of COVID-19 in your community? What specific challenges related to COVID-19 contributed the most to health inequities in your community?
 - How did this practice address or respond to these challenges?
- Is the current practice evidence-based? If yes, provide references. Examples of evidence-based guidelines include the Guide to Community Preventive Services, MMWR Recommendations and Reports, National Guideline Clearinghouses, and the USPSTF Recommendations.

Please explain how your practice was innovative.

Word Count: 1,000 Word Maximum

Section 2: Partnerships and Collaboration

The local health department (LHD) should have a role in the practice's development and/or implementation. Additionally, the practice should demonstrate broad-based strategic engagement and collaboration with community members and partners, such as government, the public, directly impacted persons, business, healthcare, and other sectors with the goal of acting on root cause/upstream factors that can reduce health inequities. If the practice is internal to the LHD, it should demonstrate equitable engagement within the agency (i.e., other LHD staff) and other outside entities. For example, seeking to hire or engage the leadership and expertise of staff that are representative of the populations being served and/or who have direct experience with the problem being addressed. The implementation strategy should include outlined, actionable steps, and be responsive to the needs of the community throughout the pandemic.

Please include the following in your response:

- Planning and implementation process:
 - What were the goals of the practice and the steps taken to achieve them?
 - What role did the community / partners have in the planning process?
 - What role did the community / partners have in the implementation process?
- What does the LHD do to foster collaboration or build community power with community stakeholders? Describe the relationship(s) and how it furthers the practice goal(s).
- Any new or “unexpected” partnerships created to plan / implement this practice?
 - How did these innovative partnerships benefit the process?
- How were these partnerships leveraged to incorporate health equity strategies into the program or practice and/or address root cause/upstream factors health inequities in the community?

State the partnerships and collaboration related to your practice.

Word Count: 1,000 Word Maximum

Section 3: Quality Improvement

The local health department (LHD) and partners adapted quickly and/or creatively to maintain and improve the program or practice during the COVID-19 pandemic, OR the program was developed to help maintain or improve the community's health during the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, your practice continually improved and/or adapted to meet the needs of the target population(s).

Please include the following in your response:

- How did the practice adapt and respond to meet the needs of the community and/or target population(s) throughout COVID-19?
 - If applicable, what improvements were made during the implementation process as challenges arose?
 - How did these improvements help to reduce inequitable health outcomes?
- How were resources reallocated to maintain the program? (if applicable).
 - If applicable, how were everyday procedures adapted to maintain the program?
- What lessons have been learned about the practice?
 - If applicable, which aspects of this program will be sustained and incorporated into future programs post-pandemic?
 - What is the meaningful public health impact of the practice?

Please explain how your practice implemented concepts of quality improvement.

Word Count: 1,000 Word Maximum

Section 4: Supporting Documents

Up to four file uploads allowed for supporting documents.