

09-01

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Public Health Certifications

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recognizes the importance of professional certifications in public health as a tool for career advancement, skill development, and fostering a competent workforce. Certifications such as the Certified in Public Health (CPH), Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)/Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES), and others demonstrate mastery of public health competencies and support professional growth. Obtaining public health certifications typically requires meeting specific educational, experience, and assessment requirements, and each certification may vary in eligibility criteria. NACCHO acknowledges that public health certifications are not required for employment in local governmental public health agencies but recognizes their value in enhancing the capabilities of the public health workforce.

NACCHO is committed to supporting the maintenance of certifications by collaborating with credentialing organizations to provide continuing education opportunities. NACCHO recommends the designation and provision of continuing education activities and credits to meet maintenance requirements for CPH, CHES/MCHES and other certifications.

Justification

NACCHO is committed to the continuing education and professional development of its members at the Annual Meeting and other trainings. NACCHO is committed to extending these benefits to members who possess relevant public health credentials, when possible.

NACCHO works to include practice-based content and knowledge in all academic public health preparatory programs.

NACCHO has helped to define the capacities that communities can reasonably expect of their local governmental public health departments through the operational definition of a functional local health department and through the support of voluntary health department accreditation. It is necessary to ensure that the public health workforce is competent to provide these capacities consistently across local health departments.¹



Finally, NACCHO values the development of a competent and skilled public health workforce capable of meeting the diverse needs of local communities. Professional certifications in public health help ensure a standard of knowledge and skills for advancing the field and create professional development pathways that support public health practice across various domains.

References

1. National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). (2005). Operational Definition of a Functional Local Health Department. Retrieved May 7, 2025, from <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Operational-Definition-of-a-Functional-Local-Health-Department.pdf>.

Record of Action

Proposed by NACCHO Workforce and Leadership Committee

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Updated May 2013

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