



THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH STARTS HERE

Strengthening the Public Health Workforce

A strong and resilient [public health workforce](#) is key to keeping communities healthy and addressing the nation's most urgent health challenges. Public health professionals work hard to prevent disease, promote wellness and protect communities.

[Investments in education and training](#) can support the public health workforce. Efforts to build a workforce that includes people who are from all backgrounds and who have the skills to tackle health inequalities are helping improve access to health services, share important information, and build trust within communities. We must continue these efforts and more to [ensure that public health systems are equipped](#) to meet everyday health needs and respond to crises.

STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE STARTS WITH...

YOU

Contacting your members of Congress

[Urge your members of Congress to prioritize public health funding](#) in Fiscal Year 2025 before the Subcommittee Markup on June 27 and let them know you want to see funding earmarked for Public Health AmeriCorps and other innovative workforce development models.

Encouraging the next generation through mentorship

Support mentorship programs in schools or community organizations, where students can learn about the impact of public health work. Consider hosting career talks or setting up a job shadowing program. APHA has [mentoring](#) and [career development resources](#) available for members. These efforts can help demystify public health careers, spark interest and build confidence in the next generation of up-and-coming public health professionals.

COMMUNITY / NEIGHBORHOOD

Supporting policies for a diverse workforce

Advocate for increasing [diversity in the public health workforce](#) to ensure it reflects the communities it serves. Support training programs that address implicit bias and build cultural competency, helping public health professionals better understand and meet the unique needs of people of all backgrounds.



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Strengthening the Public Health Workforce Cont'd

Celebrating public health workers

[Public Health Thank You Day](#) is observed each November, but public health workers deserve recognition all year long. Organize events, such as appreciation days or award ceremonies, to celebrate public health workers and highlight their contributions. Share their stories, and even simple thank-you messages through social media, newsletters, or local news to raise awareness and build community support.

CITY / STATE

Strengthening protections for public health officials

Local government agencies should address [threats or incidents targeting public health officials](#) and pursue legal action when appropriate. State and federal agencies can collaborate with local health departments to ensure effective communication during emergencies and provide flexible funding to support community needs, while elected officials can prioritize measures to protect public health workers from violence and threats.

Building leadership pathways

Work with local colleges, universities and training programs to establish clear career pathways for public health professionals. Develop initiatives like internship programs and targeted recruitment campaigns to [connect students with public health careers](#).

NATION

Expanding federal programs

National efforts to strengthen the public health workforce rely on increased funding for vital initiatives. Federal programs, such as those supported by [CDC investments](#), focus on rebuilding and modernizing the workforce to meet current and future challenges. Programs like [Public Health AmeriCorps](#) play a significant role in recruiting and training future public health professionals, ensuring they are well-prepared to address the needs of their communities.

Promoting innovation

[By embracing technological advancements, we can strengthen the public health workforce](#) and enhance its ability to serve communities. Tools like automated workflows, electronic records and data management platforms can significantly reduce the burden of paperwork and routine processes. Implementing these solutions should be a national priority to ensure a stronger, more effective public health workforce.



The American Public Health Association serves as a convener, catalyst and advocate to build capacity in the public health community. We champion optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. We promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. With our broad-based member community and 150-year perspective, we influence federal policy to improve the public's health. Learn more at [APHA.org](https://www.apha.org).