

Public Health Essentials

About the Curriculum

Public Health Essentials was designed to build capacity of non-traditional public health organizations such as Cooperative Extension to engage in multi-sector initiatives to improve population health. As a result of their participation, leaders of these organizations gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to be effective public health leaders.

In short, the curriculum focuses on equipping Extension professionals without formal training in public health with the foundational skills they need to better serve the health needs of communities. The training helps learners explore the public health approach and methods; the demographics and health status of people living in their community; and the resources to build upon to close health-related gaps. Via training, and with mentoring, learners complete project work that is directly applicable to their community, including county resource guides, county demographic and health profiles, statements of need/opportunity, and outreach and communication plans to better engage with underserved communities. The program encourages collaboration within and among organizations to foster shared goals, priorities, opportunities, and public health initiatives.

The *Public Health Essentials* course is an 80-hour self-paced web-based facilitated project-based curriculum. The course is expected to take about 18 weeks to complete with learners interacting with the course for about 4 hours each week. There is a facilitator assigned to each cohort going through the course. The facilitator will send announcements to the cohort on a regular basis, answer questions received from students, and convene a weekly one-hour meeting of the cohort. The curriculum includes discussions, activities, tools, and weekly assignments where learners can apply course concepts. The discussions and assignments will be reviewed and evaluated using competency-based rubrics.

In addition to providing foundational public health knowledge, the course can be used to prepare learners for the Certified in Public Health (CPH) Exam. Although it is not mandatory for learners to take the exam upon completion of the course, learners will build knowledge, skills, and competence that will make them strong candidates for the exam. Learners will be able to take the course at a discounted rate through this program. Applicants must be able to dedicate 5 hours per week (4 hours of course work and a one-hour weekly meeting) for 18 weeks beginning in early 2022.

For more information, please contact Roger Rennekamp, Extension Health Director, at rogerrennekamp@extension.org.



Cornell University
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Join the Inaugural Cohort!

Cooperative Extension is now recruiting for the inaugural cohort of 25 Extension professionals to complete the ***Public Health Essentials*** graduate certificate offered by Cornell University and obtain **CPH Certification** by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

Eligibility

- Be a currently employed Extension professional without an academic degree in public health
- Work in the areas of health education or influencing the social determinants of health.
- Be committed to professional growth.

Overview

National 4-H Council, with the generous support from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, will subsidize tuition for up to 25 individuals to participate in an 80-hour self-paced, instructor facilitated, project-based, online learning experience in the Spring of 2022.

- 4 hours of coursework each week for 18 weeks
- 1 facilitated cohort meeting each week
- Skills-focused exercises
- Peer-to-peer and facilitator engagement
- Applied projects that are directly applicable to your community work

Benefits

- Increase in public health competence
- Participate in a learning community
- Recognition of existing contribution to public health
- Increase in knowledge and skills that impact public health
- Build confidence in public health leadership
- Prepare to take the Certified in Public Health (CPH) Exam (if you want!)

Costs

\$450 to be paid at the time of registration covers the entire cost of participation in the certificate program. (This represents a 50% discount off the government rate of \$900 and a 90% discount off the public rate of \$3,600.)

The Future of Public Health is YOU!



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