What every Iowan should expect from Local Public Health

Community Assessment and Planning

Completing a community health assessment and health profile provides a foundation for communities to identify priorities and build health improvement plans. A community assessment may be needed as often as every three years for communities experiencing rapid change.

The Community Assessment and Planning standards were designed to:

▲ Support the core public health function of assessment.
▲ Create a picture of the community that helps identify important issues, develop programs to address the issues, and justify funding.
▲ Define the key steps of a comprehensive community health assessment such as developing the community health profile, building community collaboration, developing a community health improvement plan, and evaluating the outcome(s).

What are the benefits and outcomes for Iowans?

▲ A consistent process that uses appropriate data to identify the needs of Iowans and to establish plans for public health priorities that address those needs.
▲ Public health resources will be used in the most appropriate manner possible, based on community needs and priorities.

How will the local public health system change?

▲ Local public health will have a consistent process and framework to do its work effectively. The process allows local public health to broaden its reach in improving health while allowing the flexibility to meet unique local needs.
▲ It will improve our efficiency. Local public health will not need to send data back to the state, so it can devote its resources to developing plans and collecting unique information.
▲ A consistent process elevates the work that we do and will help build credibility with our partners. It also legitimizes each piece of the work as an essential part of effective assessment and planning.

For more information about the Community Assessment and Planning standards, contact committee co-chairs:

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