What every Iowan should expect from State Public Health

Community Assessment and Planning

Completing a community health assessment and health profile for the State of Iowa provides a foundation for IDPH to identify priorities and build health improvement plans. The assessment plan shall be monitored annually to assess progress.

The Community Assessment and Planning standards were designed to:

- Support the core public health function of assessment.
- Create a picture of Iowa that helps identify important issues, develop programs to address the issues, and justify funding.
- Define the key steps of a comprehensive health assessment such as developing a state health assessment profile, building collaboration, developing a 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 state public health system change?

- State public health will have a consistent process and framework to do its work effectively. The process allows state public health to broaden its reach in improving health while allowing the flexibility to meet unique needs.
- It will improve our efficiency by allowing us to maximize our resources in developing plans.
- 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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