

WISCONSIN

FPHS Costing and Capacity Assessment Q&A

How will this Assessment be used to move Wisconsin Public Health forward

What is the validity/reliability of this particular assessment?

Adapted from the Public Health National Center for Innovation, the Assessment tool is a valid data collection instrument for:

- Measuring the presence of Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in state and local health department jurisdictions at a point in time--in this case, fiscal year 2022;
- Estimating the amount of public health funds that were devoted to FPHS at that point in time (2022);
- Estimating the amount of public health funding necessary to fully implement the Public Health FPHS (in current US dollars - which can be adjusted for inflation moving forward.)

PHNCI's Assessment Tool is based on real-world tests in other US States that have accomplished similar assessments over the past decade.

When used to fidelity the Assessment tool will measure what it is intended to measure. Results may be compromised if:

- LHDs conflate Foundational Public Health Services with Community-specific Services (for more information see Differentiating between Foundational Public Health Services and Community-Specific Services)
- Do not take the assessment

Since this Assessment is based on self-reporting, the reliability of results relies on the quality of input from LHDs.

Working consistently and in-depth with numerous LHDs over the past two months, Rede is very confident that LHDs are using the guidance provided and following the definitions that are the core of the Assessment. We know that we will not

see 100% agreement on all individual Assessment decisions because some questions require estimates or a subjective response. WALHDAB (through Rede) and PHNCI have provided decision-making support in writing and in person. Applying the principles of the Assessment and the additional Wisconsin-specific guidance found in the Instruction Guide and Q and A will result in reliable data. Again, if you are unsure about any particular decision, Rede is here to help.

How will this Assessment be useful for Wisconsin’s public health landscape?

The purpose of this assessment is to take stock of Wisconsin's public health system’s capacity to provide the Foundational Public Health Services in every community and to estimate costs for closing the gap between the current status and the full implementation of FPHS. Data collected from the assessment will be used to: understand the current strengths and opportunities in the public health system as a state-wide network and effort; identify the training, financial, and human resources required to fully provide the Foundational Public Health Services across the state of Wisconsin; and identify, plan, and implement strategies to meet these resource needs in future years.

Additionally, doing this assessment state-wide will ensure the full image of the current infrastructure of governmental public health in Wisconsin is captured; because the public health system is a network that involves various levels of effort, crosses county and city boundaries, involves partnerships, and shared resources and support, accounting for the full network is important in the assessment to ensure the plan for the results moving forward is comprehensive and can positively contribute to the whole public health network of Wisconsin.

Due to COVID, we’ve had an influx of temporary funding. By doing a point in time assessment now, will that make it seem like public health has more resources than in reality?

The Assessment leadership team at WALHDAB (including Rede, DPH, and technical consultants at PHNCI) understands the concerns that accompany having a “COVID year” (i.e., 2022) as the point-in-time featured in the Assessment. ALL ASSESSMENT RESULTS WILL BE CONTEXTUALIZED based on the influx of federal dollars directed to the public health system in 2022 for COVID-19 response. Within the Assessment Tool there are data entry prompts for you to indicate which resources were related to COVID. Measures will be taken to ensure this inflation is accounted for in developing capacity and cost estimates including having health departments participate in these processes to identify COVID inflation in the Assessment. Lastly, addressing this influx for what it is in the final report may also provide an opportunity in the report to discuss the importance of a well-funded public health infrastructure.

How can this assessment help LHDs in their efforts to advocate for more funding?

As public health is a collective effort, it is important that all of Wisconsin's public health departments participate in the Costing and Capacity Assessment. Getting the most complete picture of Wisconsin's public health infrastructure will help ensure advocacy efforts throughout the state are a true representation of the current circumstance and the messages to be crafted will benefit the whole collective. Additionally, participation from LHDs in the analysis process and report development will ensure the final report is useful for LHDs and WPHA/WALHDAB Policy & Advocacy Committee's specific advocacy efforts.

The Foundational Public Health Services are the most up to date national recommendations for basic public health services across the county. A modernized public health system is one that is both effective and efficient and striving to reach implementation of the FPHS state-wide will not just improve public health practice but will provide agencies with the evidence-based information necessary for impactful advocacy efforts. This approach has been effective in other states.

Who has the ability to use or release findings derived from the costing and capacity assessment data?

Rede will not share, publish, or otherwise release any findings or conclusions derived from the analysis of local health department data obtained through the costing and capacity assessment without first providing materials to WALHDAB for approval. Rede will not use, disclose, publish, or distribute any proprietary materials. WALHDAB and DPH both have the ability to release findings or conclusions derived from the analysis of local health department data obtained through the costing and capacity assessment. DPH and WALHDAB will work collaboratively on the dissemination of results.

Additionally, the data interpretation process and development of the report will engage Wisconsin's local health departments to ensure usefulness and a positive, productive narrative for public health advocacy.

The Assessment seems long and complex, is 9 weeks going to be enough time to complete it?

The timeline for the costing and capacity assessment is driven by two main factors. The first is that the assessment is included as a deliverable in year one of DHS' Public Health Infrastructure Grant and sets the foundation for much of the work in years 2-5. The second factor is Wisconsin's biennial budget timeline. State agencies begin formulating their

budgets in the spring of even numbered years (e.g. 2024). Having assessment data from local health departments by the end of August will allow enough time for data cleaning, analysis, interpretation, and the formulation of recommendations in the fall and winter. WALHDAB will then utilize those recommendations to develop their biennial budget requests, which can in turn inform the budget being developed by the Division of Public Health. This timeline will also help to ensure that the data collected is utilized right away and does not become stale.

Also taken into consideration was the advice of PHNCI, the developer of the assessment tool that Wisconsin has modified. PHNCI recommended 6-8 weeks for completion. Given this recommendation and the feedback from the Tuesday Forums regarding potential workload challenges due to budget development, we settled on a completion window of 9 weeks (June 13 - August 15).

As of mid-July, a number of health departments have reported near completion. Additionally, advice from the Wave 1 group was that as the Assessment contains many aspects that relate and flow from one page to the next, including auto-filled information from one Worksheet to the next, and that while it is a lengthy process, once started it tends to flow quicker than anticipated. So the best advice from those who have started is that you really need to start and get into it in order to have an idea of the time it'll take and complexity.

If you need help getting started on your Assessment, or want support as you progress through it, please reach out to Rede. We can do this together.