

PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION FACT SHEET

ACCREDITATION

The goal of accreditation is to assure and enhance the quality of local public health in the County of Santa Cruz. Accreditation achieves this by identifying and promoting the implementation of public health standards and evaluating on their ability to meet these standards.

Accreditations goals are to:

- ◆ Assist in continuous quality improvement;
- ◆ Assure a uniform set of standards that define public health;
- ◆ Assure a process by which the state can ensure local level capacity to address core functions; and
- ◆ Provide a mechanism for accountability

ACCREDITING BODY

◆ The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), a nonprofit 501(c)3 entity, serves as the independent accrediting body. Accreditation by PHAB signifies that a health department is meeting national standards for ensuring essential public health services are provided in the community.

ACCREDITATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- ◆ Pre-application
- ◆ Application (must have completed 3 prerequisites: community health assessment, community health improvement plan, & a strategic plan)
- ◆ Site visit
- ◆ Accreditation decision
- ◆ Re-accreditation (5 years later)

BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

- ◆ Maintains County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division's ability to remain current regarding public health practice and science.
- ◆ Enhances County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division's reputation with the community, partners and stakeholders.
- ◆ Assesses local efforts to deliver to citizens a consistent set of services.
- ◆ Provides an opportunity to communicate with the local governing agencies and community the unique role of public health.
- ◆ Identifies areas where quality improvement is needed.



Public Health
Prevent • Promote • Protect
Santa Cruz County