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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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WASHINGTON, D.C. [September 27, 2016] – To support public health departments and their partners in navigating changes introduced by the Affordable Care Act (health reform), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) at Georgia State University, and the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) have launched the [2016 Leading Through Health System Change Planning Tool](#). Informed by the experiences and expertise of public health professionals across the United States, the 2016 *Planning Tool* reflects regulatory and other changes since the launch of the 2013 Planning Tool, also developed collaboratively by CDC, GHPC, and NNPHI.

Six years after its landmark passage, many public health partners are wrestling with how to respond strategically to the transformation of health care and public health. In addition to following a national prevention strategy, state and local public health departments are managing new provisions for preventive services as well as implementing mandatory community health needs assessments and planning for community hospitals

“Health system transformation is complex and evolving and public health departments and partners are already grappling with a changing public health workforce and ongoing funding cuts—both of which further complicate the process,” said Glenn Landers, Associate Project Director, GHPC. “The last few years have shown us that ready-made solutions for many of these challenges don’t exist. The *Planning Tool* describes strategies and practices of critical importance to health departments as they navigate the transformation and evolution of the U.S. health system.”

The new *Planning Tool* is a one-stop resource that supports development of action plans for health system transformation. The *Planning Tool* features an interactive tutorial and guide to help public health leaders respond strategically to the legal, administrative, and financial challenges and opportunities created by a health reform-catalyzed health system transformation.

At no cost, organizations can use the *Planning Tool* individually or with a team to:

- Examine the basics of health reform,



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- Apply strategies for problem-solving as the challenges and opportunities of health system change grow more complex, and
- Create an implementation plan that leverages opportunities created by the law.

For more information, visit [acaplanningtool.com](http://acaplanningtool.com).

#### **About the Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University**

The Georgia Health Policy Center integrates research, policy, and programs to advance health and well-being. The center addresses today's most complex issues in health and health care including behavioral health, childhood obesity, rural health, health system transformation, and population health. For the last 21 years, the center has worked in more than 1,000 communities across the nation to improve health at the community level.

#### **About the National Network of Public Health Institutes**

Mobilizing more than 40-member public health institutes with over \$1.5 billion in annual funding – as well as 10 university-based regional training centers, and 39 affiliates – NNPHI is a social, financial and information network, connecting more than 4,500 subject-matter experts with organizational partners across the nation.

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