

Sub-Evaluation #4: Evaluating Efforts to Advance Public Health Infrastructure through Strategic Partnerships that Mobilize Community-Driven Solutions

Purpose

This sub-evaluation will document and assess Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)-funded recipient strategies to establish and strengthen strategic and/or innovative partnerships with public (local/state government) as well as private, non-governmental partners including but not limited to businesses, healthcare organizations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and community members (*national evaluation questions 1 and 3**, with specific focus on the [“community partnerships” foundational capability](#)). It will examine the extent to which recipients are leveraging strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors to optimize local public health infrastructure, resulting in increased efficiency and effectiveness (*national evaluation questions 2, 3, 4**), while ensuring that community-facing services are responsive to and in alignment with community needs (*national evaluation question 6**).

Sub-Evaluation Questions of Interest

These questions represent evaluation topics identified by PHIG evaluation users to date focused on strategic partnerships with the public and private sector. Each of these questions responds to one or more national evaluation questions as indicated with an asterisk* throughout this abstract. A table of these questions can be found on page 2. **In an evaluation plan summary matrix (described in the RFP), applicants must select, modify, and/or develop evaluation questions (should include themes from each of the below categories A-D) and include potential evaluation approaches for each question.** Selected subcontractors will work in collaboration with the NET and the EAG to finalize evaluation questions and areas of exploration as part of Phase I.

A. Process, Planning, and Implementation (*national evaluation question 1**)

1. How and to what extent were PHIG funds used to establish and/or strengthen strategic partnerships between recipients and public as well as private entities? What types of public (local and/or state government) and private partners were engaged (businesses, healthcare organizations, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, community members, etc.)? What strategies did recipients use to engage these partners and why? What strategies are recipients implementing to streamline or improve mechanisms for engaging, procuring, and/or contracting with partners? How did recipients address barriers to partnerships? How and to what extent did community members contribute to the engagement strategy?

B. Outcomes (*national evaluation questions 2, 3, 4, 6**)

1. Strategic partnership outcomes: To what extent have PHIG recipients increased or strengthened partnerships with public and private entities? What do these partnerships mean for recipients' ability to engage with the communities that they serve? How are these partnerships viewed by members of the community and by public and private entities? How and to what extent do partnerships result in community-driven solutions that meet the needs of community members?
2. Grant strategy outcomes: How and to what extent do strategic partnerships supported by PHIG with public and private entities contribute to strengthening recipients' public health infrastructure? Specifically, to what extent do these partnerships affect recipients' efficiency and effectiveness in recruiting and retaining staff, strengthening the foundational capabilities, and modernizing data systems? To what extent and how do partnerships affect the reach, effectiveness, and efficiency of community-specific services? Is there evidence that these partnerships optimize cost savings and resource sharing? Are there indicators that public-private partnerships that enhance community-facing services have the potential to improve health outcomes for community members?

C. Context (*national evaluation questions 6,7**)

1. Alignment with other funding streams: How and to what extent do recipients' PHIG-funded activities and strategies relating to strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors align with, complement, and/or build upon partnerships and/or community engagement activities funded by other grants?
2. Recipient characteristics: How do governance structures and differing local and state policies impact how recipients form and/or sustain strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors? What, if any, differences exist in terms of strategies, successes, and challenges between recipients who are states, locals, and territories and freely associated states?

D. Sustainability (*national evaluation question 7*)

1. How are recipients planning to sustain successful strategic partnerships supported by PHIG? Are there promising practices that could be adopted and/or adapted by other health departments?

Use of Findings

This sub-evaluation will describe PHIG-funded strategies and activities that help establish and strengthen community engagement and strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors. It will assess the extent to which these partnerships optimize local public health infrastructure by contributing to efficiencies and/or effectiveness in advancing the workforce, foundational capabilities, community-specific services, and modernized data systems. It will describe how these partnerships influence recipients' understanding of and responsiveness to community needs, including the delivery of community-specific services that can influence community health outcomes. This sub-evaluation will also document and share barriers, challenges, successes, and promising practices identified through recipients' experiences forging and sustaining strategic partnerships.

Most importantly, the sharing of findings from this sub-evaluation may be used by health departments to adjust partnership strategies and activities (what is working, what does not seem to work) so that they are more effective and efficient during the grant. These findings will also contribute to the evidence base around strategic partnerships between public health and the public and private sectors, emphasizing promising practices that could positively impact infrastructure long-term.

*National Evaluation Questions		Informed by which questions in this abstract?
1	What activities are PHIG recipients and national partners implementing to address intended grant outcomes?	A1
2	How does the grant contribute to strengthening the public health workforce?	B2
3	How does the grant contribute to strengthening public health Foundational Capabilities?	B1, B2
4	How does the grant contribute to strengthening data modernization and systems?	B2
5	How do national partner activities affect PHIG recipients?	
6	What progress have recipients made toward achieving the long-term outcomes of the grant?	B1, B2 C2
7	What are lessons learned from the grant? What are the implications for the future of public health?	C1, C2 D1