



National Association of County & City Health Officials

Model Practice Award Application Review

NACCHO is excited to share a new opportunity available to local health departments submitting abstracts for **the 2026 NACCHO360 or 2026 PHI*con Conferences**: during the submission process, you will have the option to submit your abstract for **consideration as a 2026 Model Practice Award**.

By selecting this optional designation, your work to be peer-reviewed for its innovation, effectiveness, and replicability—hallmarks of a Model Practice. If selected, your initiative will be recognized as an exemplary public health strategy and shared broadly via the Model Practice Database to inspire and inform others in the field.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase your department's impactful work and contribute to the advancement of public health practice nationwide.

The call for submissions will

OPEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

CLOSES: Friday, November 28, 2025, at 11:59 pm EST.

What is a Model Practice?

A Model Practice is a public health initiative that demonstrates innovation, effectiveness, and replicability. These practices serve as examples for other health departments and contribute to the advancement of public health nationwide.

Eligibility

All local health departments (LHDs) and NACCHO affiliate members are eligible to submit practices.

Criteria

The goal of the Model Practice Award Program is to first nationally honor and recognize outstanding public health practice and secondly to promote sharing of these outstanding practices among local health departments (LHDs). The below is the criteria to apply for a Model Practice:

- Answer each section separately; **DO NOT** combine sections.
 - Answer all sentences in complete sentences.
 - Be mindful of typos and grammatical errors; poorly written applications may not be forwarded for review.
 - Practices that are designated model will be published online for public viewing.
 - If selected, Model Practices winners may be asked to write an article for the Fall issue of NACCHO exchange.
 - All Model Practices applications **MUST** be submitted through the online application process.
 - NACCHO will **NOT** accept any applications sent via e-mail, fax or conventional mail.
 - NACCHO recommends that applicants develop/write their responses in a separate document before beginning to fill out the online version so that there is a backup copy.
 - Please read all the instructions and criteria carefully before filling out application.
 - Applications will be scored based only on the information provided.
 - Incomplete applications will **NOT** be considered for review.
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Application Information

Practice Categories

Model and Promising practices are stored in an online searchable database. Applications may align to more than one practice category. You will need to ***select the top three*** that apply most to your practice.

Access to Care	Emergency Preparedness	Infectious Disease	Primary Care
Advocacy and Policy Making	Environmental Health	Informatics	Quality Improvement
Animal Control	Food Safety	Information Technology	Research and Evaluation
Coalitions and Partnerships	Global Climate Change	Injury and Violence Program	Tobacco
Communications/ Public Relations	Health Equity	Marketing and Promotion	Vector Control
Community Involvement	HIV/STI	Maternal-Child and Adolescent Health	Water Quality
Cultural Competence	Immunization	Organizational Practices	Workforce

Overview: Provide a brief summary of the practice (750 words max.)

Your summary **must** address all the questions below:

- Brief description of LHD-location, demographics of population served in your community.
- Describe public health issue.
- Goals and Objectives of the proposed practice.
- How was the practice implemented/activities?
- Results/Outcomes (list process milestones and intended/actual outcomes and impacts.)
- Were all the objectives met?
- What specific factors led to the success of this practice?
- Public Health impact of practice.
- Website for your program, or LHD.

Reminder this section should respond to the above questions.

Responsiveness and Innovation

A Model Practice must be responsive to a particular local public health problem or concern. An innovative practice must be -

- (1) new to the field of public health (and not just new to your health department) OR
- (2) a creative use of an existing tool or practice, including but not limited to use of an Advanced Practice Centers (APC) development tool, The Guide to Community Preventive Services, Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020), Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH).

Examples of an inventive use of an existing tool or practice are tailored to meet the needs of a specific population, adapting from a different discipline, or improving the content.

- Statement of the problem/public health issue
- What target population is affected by problem (please include relevant demographics)
 - What is the target population size?
 - What percentage did you reach? What has been done in the past to address the problem?
- Why is the current/proposed practice better? Is current practice innovative? How so/explain?
 - Is it new to the field of public health?
 - Is it a creative use of existing tool or practice?
- What tool or practice did you use in an original way to create your practice? (e.g., APC development tool, The Guide to Community Preventive Services, HP 2020, MAPP, PACE EH, a tool from NACCHO's Toolbox etc.)
- Is the current practice evidence-based? If yes, provide references (Examples of evidence-based guidelines include the Guide to Community Preventive Services, MMWR Recommendations and Reports, National Guideline Clearinghouses, and the USPSTF Recommendations.)

Please state the Responsiveness and Innovation of your practice (2000 Word Maximum)

LHD and Community Collaboration

The LHD should have a role in the practice's development and/or implementation. Additionally, the practice should demonstrate broad based involvement and participation of community partners (e.g., government, local residents, business, healthcare, and academia). If the practice is internal to the LHD, it should demonstrate cooperation and participation within the agency (i.e., other LHD staff) and other outside entities, if relevant. An effective implementation strategy includes outlined, actionable steps that are taken to complete the goals and objectives and put the practice into action within the community.

- Goal(s) and objectives of practice
- What did you do to achieve the goals and objectives?
 - Steps taken to implement the program
- Any criteria for who was selected to receive the practice (if applicable)?
- What was the timeframe for the practice were other stakeholders involved?
- What was their role in the planning and implementation process?
 - What does the LHD do to foster collaboration with community stakeholders? Describe the relationship(s) and how it furthers the practice goal(s)
- Any start up or in-kind costs and funding services associated with this practice? Please provide actual data, if possible. Otherwise, provide an estimate of start-up costs/ budget breakdown.

Please enter the LHD and Community Collaboration related to your practice (5000 words maximum).

Evaluation

Evaluation assesses the value of the practice, and the potential worth it has to other LHDs and the populations they serve. It is also an effective means to assess the credibility of the practice. Evaluation helps public health practice maintain standards and improve practice. Two types of evaluation are process and outcome. Process evaluation assesses the effectiveness of the steps taken to achieve the desired practice outcomes. Outcome evaluation summarizes the results of the practice efforts. Results may be long-term, such as an improvement in health status, or short-term, such as an improvement in knowledge/awareness, a policy change, an increase in numbers reached, etc. Results may be quantitative (empirical data such as percentages or numerical counts) and/or qualitative (e.g., focus group results, in-depth interviews, or anecdotal evidence).

- What did you find out? To what extent were your objectives achieved? Please re-state your objectives.
- Did you evaluate your practice?
 - List any primary data sources, who collected the data, and how (if applicable)
 - List any secondary data sources used (if applicable)
 - List performance measures used. Include process and outcome measures as appropriate.
 - Describe how results were analyzed.
 - Were any modifications made to the practice as a result of the data findings?

Please enter the evaluation results of your practice (2000 Words Maximum).

Sustainability

Sustainability is determined by the availability of adequate resources. In addition, the practice should be designed so that the stakeholders are invested in its maintenance and to ensure it is sustained after initial development (NACCHO acknowledges that fiscal challenges may limit the feasibility of a practice's continuation.)

- Lessons learned in relation to practice.
- Lessons learned in relation to partner collaboration (if applicable)
- Did you do a cost/benefit analysis? If so, describe.
- Is there sufficient stakeholder commitment to sustain the practice?
 - Describe sustainability plans.

Please enter the sustainability of your practice (2000 Words Maximum).

How did you hear about the Model Practice Program:

Tell us how you heard about the Model Practice Program.

I am a previous Model Practice applicant	Email from NACCHO	NACCHO Exhibit Booth
At a conference	Model Practices Brochure	NACCHO Website
Colleague in my LHD	NACCHO Connect	Public Health Dispatch
Colleague from another public health agency	NACCHO Exchange	



How to Apply for Model Practice:

Please utilize the following link to apply for 2026 Model Practice Awards:

[2026 NACCHO360](#)

Who to Contact:

If you have any questions concerning the Model Practices program, **please e-mail** membership@naccho.org and a member of NACCHO’s Model Practices team will get back with you.

Check out the NACCHO website to see Model Practice Database or check out previous year's winners.

[Model Practices - NACCHO](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I submit my abstract as a Model Practice?

Yes! During the abstract submission process for **2025 NACCHO360** or 2026 **PHI*con Conferences**, you will be prompted to indicate whether you'd like your abstract to be considered and peer reviewed as a Model Practice.

Is submitting as a Model Practice required?

No, it's completely optional. You can choose to submit your abstract without requesting Model Practice review.

What criteria are used to evaluate Model Practices?

Model Practices are reviewed based on:

- **Innovation:** Does the practice introduce a new or creative approach?
- **Effectiveness:** Is there evidence of measurable impact?
- **Replicability:** Can other health departments adopt or adapt the practice?

What happens if my abstract is selected as a Model Practice?

If selected, your initiative will be recognized and shared as an exemplary public health strategy. This may include publication, presentation opportunities, and inclusion in a national database of Model Practices.

Can I update my submission later to include Model Practice review?

No, the decision to submit for Model Practice review must be made during the initial submission process.

Can I make changes to my model practice after I have submitted it?

You cannot change your abstract content once the submission deadline has passed. However, minor corrections (i.e. spelling errors, etc.) can be made. You will make these edits in the speaker portal [2026 NACCHO360](#) under *Manage Session, Speakers and Contacts*.

When will I find out if I have been awarded a Model Practice Award?

You will be contacted by NACCHO Membership team by XX

Will there be a presentation at NACCHO360 that showcases the Model Practice Awards?

Yes, we will have a presentation at NACCHO360 where we will recognize Model Practice winners. More details will follow as we get closer to the conference.

Do I have to be present to accept my Model Practice Award?

No, you don't have to be present to accept your Model Practice Award, though we would love for you to join us at NACCHO360 in Louisville, KY so that we can present to you person. We realize that this might not be a possibility due to budget constraints.