

Louisiana



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health Access developed the [State of Health Equity in Louisiana Tactical Plan 2014–2016](#)¹ to outline a 5-year strategic plan to improve health equity and access for underserved populations. The plan will be implemented through a collaborative effort of the Bureau of Minority Health Access and its partners, including public, private, and nonprofit stakeholder organizations. One of the plan's five objectives is to advance awareness and application of the National CLAS Standards. The plan outlines six tactical actions for implementing this objective: conduct an initial assessment of the National CLAS Standards; train and educate a broad cross-section of stakeholders that need to be aware of the National CLAS Standards and how to apply them; include provisions related to the National CLAS Standards in contracts; include the National CLAS Standards in curricula; include the National CLAS Standards in professional development programs; and coordinate this objective with public and private organizations.

The Bureau of Minority Health Access also collaborates with a diverse group of professionals who are dedicated to reducing health inequities that challenge minorities and the underserved populations in Louisiana. In partnership with the Latino Health Commission, the Bureau works to address

Latino health care priorities through implementation of the National CLAS Standards, such as improving access and the quality of health care services for Latino communities, ensuring there are services provided in Spanish and that are respectful of the Latino culture, and increasing public health and preventive health information that is specific to Hispanics and Latinos. More information about the Bureau of Minority Health Access collaborations can be found in the [Minority Health Activities](#)² document on its website.

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The Louisiana Bureau of Minority Health Access created [Cultural Competence](#)³ website that provides an overview of the National CLAS Standards, the enhancement initiative, CLAS legislation, and a link to the federal Think Cultural Health webpage. The website also offers a [Multicultural Competency Assessment for Organizations](#)⁴ tool. The tool was designed to assess staff and client perceptions about how well an organization provides culturally competent HIV prevention services for people with different backgrounds. It serves as a group discussion guide to identify and discuss areas in which an organization is culturally competent and areas in which improvements can be made.

Endnotes

- 1 Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health Access. (n.d.). *The State of Health Equity in Louisiana Tactical Plan 2014–2016*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals: http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/GovCouncil/MinHealth/LA-HE_Tactical.pdf.
- 2 Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. (n.d.). *Bureau of Minority Health Access Activities*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals: http://www.dhh.state.la.us/assets/docs/GovCouncil/MinHealth/BMHA_Activities.pdf.
- 3 Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health. (n.d.). *Cultural Competence*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Access & Promotions: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health: <http://www.dhh.state.la.us/index.cfm/page/209/n/242>.
- 4 Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health. (n.d.). *Multicultural Competency Assessment for Organizations*. Retrieved December 17, 2014, from Access and Promotions: Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Minority Health: <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/GovCouncil/MinHealth/MulticulturalCompetencyAssessmentforOrganizations.pdf>.