

Pennsylvania



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Office of Health Equity participates in a department-wide Cultural Competency Taskforce. As described in the office's Winter 2014 Newsletter,¹ the Cultural Competency Taskforce was formed to integrate evidence-based cultural and linguistic competency practices into department policies and strategic plans in order to improve understanding of diversity, inclusion, and cultural differences and to improve public health outcomes for all citizens.

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The Office of Health Equity's 2014 [Health Equity Conference](#)² featured a preconference workshop³ on applying the National CLAS Standards. The workshop explained the purpose and structure of the National CLAS Standards, discussed their history, included small group exercises on applying the standards, and explained their relationship to leadership.

The Cultural Competency Taskforce plans to develop a training curriculum that creates awareness and understanding of cultural competency and the National CLAS Standards among Department of Health staff. Department employees will be encouraged to attend face-to-face trainings. Online trainings are planned for managers and those who do not have direct interaction with the public, as well as department-affiliated partners, contractors, grantees, and stakeholders.

In 2013, the Office of Health Equity supported two mini-grant programs for work to implement the National CLAS Standards: one from the Minority Health Program,⁴ and one from the [Refugee Health Program](#).⁵ The awards of up to \$6,000 are intended for projects such as National CLAS Standards training sessions for providers and volunteers, and CLAS-specific data collection and research.

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The Office of Health Equity [website](#)⁶ includes information about the National CLAS Standards and cultural competency.⁷ The Office of Health Equity also includes discussion of the National CLAS Standards in some of its quarterly newsletters.⁸

Endnotes

- 1 Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. (2014, Winter). *Health Equity E-News*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=18&objID=1396693&mode=2>.
- 2 Pennsylvania Department of Health. (n.d.). *2014 Pennsylvania Health Equity Conference*. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/2014_health_equity_conference/20917.
- 3 Terry, B., González, E., & Luquis, R. (2014, August 21). *Applying the National Standards to Improve Cultural Competency*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/document/1434992/gonzalez,_terry,_luquis_preconference_workshop_8-21-2014_pdf.
- 4 Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. (2013, June 13). *Minority Health Grant Opportunity*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: http://www.education.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/document/1342597/final_mhp_mini-grant_letter_application_2013_%28v3%29_pdf.

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- 5 Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. (2013, June 18). *Refugee Health Program*. Retrieved March 8, 2016, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/refugee_health/19001.
- 6 Pennsylvania Department of Health. (n.d.). *Office of Health Equity*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: http://www.employment.pa.gov/portal/server.pt/community/health_equity/18862.
- 7 Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. (n.d.). *Cultural Competency*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=968379&mode=2>.
- 8 Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. (2014, Fall). *Health Equity E-News*. Retrieved December 31, 2014, from Pennsylvania Department of Health: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=18&objID=1438692&mode=2>.