

Kentucky



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The Kentucky Department of Public Health addresses the National CLAS Standards in its [Plan for Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion 2012–2016](#).¹ The plan outlines initiatives and action items to achieve four strategic goals, including policy, systems, and environmental changes that support healthy choices; expanded access to evidence-based clinical screenings, clinical management, and chronic disease self-management; strong linkages among community networks; and the use of research data as a catalyst for change. A key initiative for achieving expanded access to care is improvement of health literacy among Kentuckians. An action item for achieving this initiative is promotion of the National CLAS Standards educational materials and explanations regarding health care services.

The Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity conducted the [Kentucky Cultural and Linguistic Competency of Local Public Health Workforce to Create Healthier Communities in Kentucky Project](#)² in 2010. The goal of the project was to assess how well local health departments in Kentucky were adhering to the National CLAS Standards. The federal Office of Minority Health's *Self-Assessment Tool*

for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs) was administered to directors, senior nurse leaders, senior program managers, and health educators at local health departments. The results provided information on the most frequently used education and training tools, translation services, and printed materials. Based on the findings, the Office of Health Equity developed recommendations for improving implementation of the National CLAS Standards.

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The Kentucky Department of Public Health provides training on the National CLAS Standards using a 60-minute [online training module](#).³ The module begins with a brief introduction of health equity concepts, cultural and linguistic competency, health disparities, and social determinants of health. The course objectives include an overview of the National CLAS Standards, how they are organized and which of them are mandated, strategies for implementing the National CLAS Standards, and the impact they can have on a community. Participants can complete an assessment and evaluation to obtain a certificate of completion.

Endnotes

- 1 Kentucky Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Program, Department for Public Health, Cabinet for Health and Family Services. (2013, November). *Unbridled Health: A Plan for Coordinated Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion 2012–2016*. Retrieved December 24, 2014, from Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: <http://chfs.ky.gov/nr/rdonlyres/edc31b0e-d81e-4bb0-87cd-ec3ccc837f9/0/unbridledhealthplannovember2013.pdf>.
- 2 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department of Public Health. (2010). *Kentucky Cultural and Linguistic Competency of Local Public Health Workforce to Create Healthier Communities in Kentucky Project*. Retrieved December 24, 2014, from Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services: <http://chfs.ky.gov/NR/rdonlyres/7F7CE7AE-74A9-411A-9A72-C475C72C7605/0/2010culturalcompetencyassessment.doc>.
- 3 Kentucky Department of Public Health. (n.d.). *National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health Care Online Module*. Retrieved December 24, 2014, from TRAIN Kentucky: <https://ky.train.org/DesktopModules/eLearning/CourseDetails/CourseDetailsForm.aspx?tabid=62&courseid=1042689>.