



3/2/18

Lincoln Trail District Health Department (LTDHD) announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments.

LTDHD is one of 220 health departments nationally and one of 14 in the state of Kentucky that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011. However, hundreds of health departments across the country are preparing to seek accreditation through PHAB, the non-profit organization that administers the national public health accreditation program. The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), established in 2007, was created to serve as the national public health accrediting body, and is jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The development of national public health accreditation has involved, and is supported by, public health leaders and practitioners from the national, Tribal, state, and local levels. "We are pleased and excited to be recognized for achieving national standards that foster effectiveness and promote continuous quality improvement," said Sara Jo Best, Public Health Director, of LTDHD. "The accreditation process helps to ensure that the programs and services we provide are as responsive as possible to the needs of our community. With accreditation, LTDHD is demonstrating increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work."

"Whenever you see our seal of accreditation, you will know that LTDHD has been rigorously examined and exceeds national standards for public health," Best said. "By continuing to improve our services and performance, we can be sure we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible. This achievement validates the dedication and hard work of our staff, the extraordinary support of our community partners, and the commitment of our Board of Health to improving the health and quality of life in the Lincoln Trail District."



# The Value of PHAB Accreditation

Strengthening Health Departments to Better Serve their Communities



## Quality Improvement

The percentage of respondents who said accreditation stimulates quality and performance improvement opportunities.<sup>1</sup>



## Partnerships

The percentage of respondents who said that since becoming accredited, their health department's relationships with local community stakeholders have improved.<sup>1</sup>



## Accountability

The percentage of respondents who said accreditation improves accountability to external stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>



## Strengths/Weaknesses

The percentage of respondents who said accreditation allows the health department to better identify strengths and weaknesses.<sup>1</sup>



## Workforce

"By far the best [outcome of accreditation] is the validation for staff. They are really proud of accomplishing accreditation, and really proud of doing things the right way."<sup>2</sup>



## Resources

"The work we have done to become accredited has helped us obtain other grants. Going through our CHA and CHIP goals, having a strategic plan in place, they have probably helped us secure some grants that we may not have obtained if we had not had those."<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> NORC evaluation survey of health departments one year after they were accredited, as of Oct. 2016.