

# Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center

## University of Iowa College of Public Health



### Overview

The Upper Midwest Public Health Training Center (UMPHTC) provides education and training on the latest public health techniques and practices for professionals and students in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. The target audience is practitioners in traditional and non-traditional public health settings, with an emphasis on medically underserved areas. UMPHTC also supports the emerging public health workforce by providing practice opportunities for graduate students and supporting K–12 pipeline activities.

### Key Activities

- UMPHTC supports the efforts of the Health Occupations for Today and Tomorrow (HOTT) program in South Dakota (SD). The SD Departments of Education, Health, and Labor and the SD Board of Regents created this program to address the shortage of health care and public health workers in the state. HOTT focuses on health career information and learning opportunities for students at all grade levels. Thousands of students have participated in HOTT activities including health care academies, Health care in Partnership with Education (HIPE) week, a virtual career fair, and scrubs camps.
- UMPHTC has worked with its PCA for many years on workforce development activities. Two other PHTCs – the Heartland Public Health Education & Training Center and the MidAmerica Public Health Training Center have also been working with their state PCAs in various ways. In May 2010, UMPHTC convened an initial meeting of the three PHTCs and their respective PCAs to discuss workforce needs and share information on training activities. Based on recommendations from these meetings the three PHTCs are developing a Regional Initiative for PHTC/PCA (RIPP). This innovative partnership aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the CHC workforce to better meet their mission of providing care to underserved, underinsured and uninsured populations.
- The aging public health workforce has implications for organizational development and the next generation of leaders. In Nebraska, UMPHTC funds help to support the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute (GPPHLI). GPPHLI is a year-long program designed for senior and emerging leaders in public and private organizations whose primary mission is to improve the health and well-being of populations and communities in the tri-state region. Since 2005, the GPPHLI has trained more than 100 scholars from Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. These graduates move forward to complete advanced leadership training, interact with new scholars, and become involved in peer coaching.

### Public Health in Action

*Workforce retention continues to be a critical issue for community health centers (CHC). To address this issue, UMPHTC and the Iowa Primary Care Association (IA PCA) partnered to create an electronic competency-based training and resource center. The purpose of this electronic center is to identify and link to trainings and resources that address the CHC Management Competencies.*



### Impact on Public Health Workforce

- UMPHTC uses the Prepare Iowa Learning Management System (PILMS) to provide individuals with the ability to assess their level of confidence on several sets of competencies. The assessment results are used to determine in what areas the individual could enhance their knowledge and skills. Individuals are also able to directly access trainings on the PILMS. For example, WIC professionals across the state of Iowa used the PILMS to assess their confidence level on a range of skills and abilities they need to carry out their job. Based on the results of the assessment, cultural competence was identified as an area where workers did not feel confident. To meet this identified need, two online courses were developed that focus on cultural competence for WIC professionals.
- During the past several years UMPHTC has focused more of its efforts in the area of distance education. Realizing that time is a major barrier to participation, UMPHTC has made many of its programs available in an asynchronous format that the learner can access at any time. UMPHTC has built an impressive infrastructure to develop and deliver distance education that includes instructional designers and developers; an educational media specialist with expertise in video design, recording, and editing; a graphics designer; evaluators; an item writer; scenario developers; a flash developer; a learning management coordinator; and program managers. The focus on distance education has paid off as reflected in the large number of individuals participating in trainings.
- UMPHTC strengthens practice-based experiences of current UI College of Public Health students through funded internship projects with partners from across the state, with an emphasis on placing students in organizations working with underserved and vulnerable populations.
- Number of trainings: 47
- Number of workers trained: 16,807

### Key Partners

- Iowa Counties Public Health Association
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa Primary Care Association
- State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa
- Nebraska Health & Human Services System
- Public Health Association of Nebraska
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- South Dakota Departments of Health, Education & Labor

### Leadership

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# HRSA Public Health Training Centers

The Health Resources and Services Administration funded Public Health Training Centers (PHTC) are partnerships between accredited schools of public health, related academic institutions, and public health agencies and organizations. The PHTC Network improves the Nation's public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of current and future public health professionals. Public Health Training Centers assess the learning needs of the public health workforce, provide accessible training, and work with organizations to meet other strategic planning, education, and resource needs.



[PHTC Maps](#)

## [List of Public Health Training Centers](#)

<p><b><u>Arizona</u></b> Arizona PHTC</p> <p><b><u>California</u></b> California-Nevada PHTC California Pacific PHTC Southwest Regional PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Colorado</u></b> Colorado PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Florida</u></b> Florida PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Georgia</u></b> Emory PHTC Georgia PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Illinois</u></b> Mid-America PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Indiana</u></b> Indiana PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Iowa</u></b> Upper Midwest PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Kentucky</u></b> Kentucky &amp; Appalachia PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Louisiana</u></b> South Central PHTC</p>	<p><b><u>Maryland</u></b> MidAtlantic PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Massachusetts</u></b> New England Alliance for PH Workforce Development</p> <p><b><u>Michigan</u></b> Michigan PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Minnesota</u></b> Midwest Center for Life-Long- Learning in Public Health</p> <p><b><u>Missouri</u></b> Heartland Public Health Education and Training Center</p> <p><b><u>New Hampshire</u></b> New Hampshire PHTC</p> <p><b><u>New Jersey</u></b> New Jersey PHTC</p> <p><b><u>New York</u></b> Empire State PHTC New York-New Jersey PHTC</p> <p><b><u>North Carolina</u></b> Southeast PHTC</p>	<p><b><u>Ohio</u></b> Ohio PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Oklahoma</u></b> Oklahoma PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Pennsylvania</u></b> Pennsylvania PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Puerto Rico</u></b> Puerto Rico-Florida PHTC</p> <p><b><u>South Carolina</u></b> South Carolina PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Tennessee</u></b> LIFEPATH Tennessee PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Texas</u></b> Texas PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Virginia</u></b> Commonwealth PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Washington</u></b> Northwest PHTC</p> <p><b><u>Wisconsin</u></b> Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training</p>
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