

# LABORATORY EFFICIENCIES INITIATIVE

*Vision:* A sustainable and integrated network of public health laboratories.

*Mission:* To assure that the public health laboratory network efficiently provides high confidence scientific evidence to drive decision-making that protects and improves the health of the public.

APHL supports CDC's proposal to fund the Laboratory Efficiencies Initiative (LEI) with \$20 million in fiscal year 2014.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR PHL SUSTAINABILITY

APHL and CDC co-sponsor the LEI with important contributions by public health and laboratory partners. Some of the high-efficiency management practices being explored are:

- Sharing of testing services across states,
- Adoption of standardized testing platforms,
- Optimized models of service organization,
- Generation of new revenue sources,
- Application of informatics solutions and
- Procurement cost-savings.

## LEI ACTIVITIES

Beginning in mid-2011, APHL and CDC have:

- Initiated a project to assess public health laboratories capabilities across the informatics enterprise to address gaps that reduce efficiency.
- Sponsored focus groups to identify practical metrics for measuring the return on investment in public health laboratories.
- Identified "lessons learned" by public health laboratories that have consolidated services, formed multistate testing cooperatives, or been forced to downsize.
- Initiated recommendations and activities to improve management and laboratory access to existing test service data.
- Convened two director forums to document the issues and concerns regarding sustainability facing the public health laboratories.
- Developed a strategic plan to guide the activities of the LEI.

- Convened a Legislative Policy meeting to identify the legal and policy barriers and potential solutions to achieving greater efficiency by public health laboratories.
- Assembled with public health partner organizations APHA, ASTHO, CSTE, and NACCHO to align priorities and explore opportunities for collaboration.

## NEW SUSTAINABILITY RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT

- Informatics Self-Assessment with Guidance  
Developing a tool to assist laboratories in sustaining current capabilities and addressing gaps through standards-based best practices.
- Procurement Strategies  
Exploring new business approaches to make equipment, services, and supplies more affordable.
- Revenue Generation  
Examining opportunities for revenue such as billing for laboratory tests.
- Workforce Competency  
Developing relevant workforce strategies, tools, and trainings.
- Policy Guide for Sharing of Test Services  
Creating a tool to identify and address legal or other policy issues that may support or impede shared services.

## LINKS

[www.aphl.org/lei](http://www.aphl.org/lei)

## CONTACT

Peter Kyriacopoulos, senior director, Public Policy  
240.485.2766 or [peter.kyriacopoulos@aphl.org](mailto:peter.kyriacopoulos@aphl.org)