L-SIP

Make the Connections

Laboratory System Improvement Program

Why Do a Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) Assessment?

Established in 2007, APHL's Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP) strives to have all state and local public health laboratories hold an L-SIP assessment to define and identify needed system improvements, and then to reassess their progress at least every 5 years in order to measure improvements. L-SIP evaluates the laboratory system's current status as it pertains to the 10 Essential Public Health Services to ensure that all aspects of the laboratory system are assessed and improved. Quality improvement efforts always require an investment. L-SIP produces returns on that investment by strengthening systems and improving services.

More than half of all US state public health laboratories have completed an assessment and are in various stages of addressing improvement projects that were identified. An evaluation of all post L-SIP reports reveals that the majority of system improvement areas and projects fall into 5 categories (listed on the right). The most common projects directly involve improving system partner collaboration and communication.

Top 5 System Improvements Resulting from an L-SIP Assessment

1. System partner collaborations
2. Communication with partners
3. Assessment of system goals
4. Advisory and advocacy groups
5. Workforce development

New Jersey Public Health Laboratory
Martha Smith, Policy Planning and Regulatory Compliance Director

> " The results of our L-SIP assessment gave us a good benchmark of our progress as a system in reaching our goal to provide the 10 Essential Public Health Services. We learned a lot about where we were successful, and where we weren't. Some positive outcomes of the assessment were the identification of:
>
> - Areas where we are under-funded, so we could explore alternate revenue sources;
>
> - Areas where other L-SIP participants are facing identical challenges in which we could partner to resolve challenges, such as workforce development;
>
> - Individuals within the L-SIP stakeholder group willing to work with us in improvement of services, such as assisting with our clinical laboratory regulatory revisions Focus Group.
>
> Just getting this New Jersey group together for the day and talking about public health services was a reward in itself, a goal achievement in itself and fun. "

APHL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES®

Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory
Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Laboratory Deputy Director

"Since the initial assessment of the local public health laboratory system, the Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory, in collaboration with multi-disciplinary academic and community partners, has analyzed the assessment results and identified system priorities, developed strategic plans related to workforce development and research, and developed action plans to achieve system improvements. L-SIP has *strengthened the existing partnership* and also *facilitated the formation of new partnerships*. To establish leadership and objectives to facilitate collaborative research, the stakeholders, the advisory committees and subject matter experts were able to *identify local area research need*, creating an inventory of researchers (overseen by community co-chairs and research subcommittee), and available resources (multiple new projects and grant applications underway). The workforce development and PHL promotional efforts include *development of workforce assessment tools, internship strategies, crafting success stories and local media outreach plans*."

Get Your Laboratory System Connected Through L-SIP!

Visit www.aphl.org and search "L-SIP" to learn how the process has driven improvements in other public health laboratory systems and contact APHL now to start planning your assessment.

Contact information:
Tina Su
Senior Specialist, Laboratory Systems and Standards
240.485.2729
bertina.su@aphl.org

APHL Support to Aid in L-SIP Assessment Preparation

APHL provides the following resources to jump start your assessment:

- Streamlined preparatory process
- Assessment tool and user's guide
- Mentoring program
- Personalized technical assistance
- Facilitation assistance
- Funding (when available)

L-SIP
Make the Connections
Laboratory System Improvement Program

APHL
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES®