



## ASTHO AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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### INTRODUCTION

One of the core functions of public health is collaborating to achieve positive public health outcomes. It is through these efforts that we can collectively improve the health of our citizens. We believe that the power of state public health can be demonstrated through combining the efforts of all those who have leadership roles within state health agencies through their professional associations, which include the following:

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)  
Association of Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA)  
Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP)  
Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)  
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD)  
Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN)  
Association of State and Territorial Health Liaison Officials (ASTLHLO)  
Association of State and Territorial Public Health Social Workers (ASTPHSW)  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN)  
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD)  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)  
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NAEMSO)  
National Association of State Offices of Minority Health (NASOMH)  
National Association of Vector-Borne Disease Control Officials (NAVCO, formerly SPHVCC)  
National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)  
National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC)  
Safe States Alliance (formerly STIPDA)

Together, these 20 legally separate associations constitute the Affiliated Organizations referenced in these principles. The Affiliate Council is a standing committee, recognized in ASTHO's bylaws, whose membership includes the presidents, executive directors, or chief executive officers of each Affiliated Organization, and serves as the forum for these organizations to work together.

This document describes the principles that the Affiliate Organizations will use to cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate on resource allocation, policy making and advocacy, national coordination, program support, and organizational development. These principles are intended to promote effective interaction and state public health development at the intersection of national organizations and state public health agencies. For the purposes of this document, we define "cooperation" as sharing information, "coordination" as working on common tasks, and "collaboration" as integrating strategies and identifying collective purpose. We see cooperation, coordination, and collaboration as a continuum.

ASTHO will convene the Affiliate Council and support in pursuit of implementing these guiding principles. All Affiliated organizations, including ASTHO play an equal role in adhering to these guiding principles.



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### **VALUE STATEMENT**

We honor and value that all Affiliate Organizations contribute to the success of the public health system. In the spirit our commitment to one another and to the public's health, we are dedicated to mutual cooperation, collaboration, coordination and respecting one another.

### **RESOURCE ALLOCATION**

To demonstrate mutual collaboration and transparency within the Council, Affiliated Organizations will endeavor to respect the expertise of other affiliates and communicate with one another before submitting applications for funding states in achieving public health outcomes. Where appropriate and feasible, affiliates will work together on grant applications, e.g. by co-applying, collaborating, or writing letters of support for other affiliates' applications. This support is particularly helpful when an affiliate is seeking funding through a grant, cooperative agreement, contract, and/or unsolicited proposal that directly involves another affiliate's members.

1. The Affiliated Organizations will seek opportunities to secure adequate resources for state public health.
2. The Affiliated Organizations will cooperate to design strategies and plans for securing and allocating federal, state, and private sector public health resources.
3. The Affiliated Organizations will cooperate in seeking funding opportunities to ensure that states are able to achieve public health outcomes.
4. The Affiliated Organizations will seek opportunities to build state public health capacity and expertise through the coordination of services and by cooperating on funding opportunities.

### **POLICY MAKING AND ADVOCACY**

1. The Affiliated Organizations each develop policies that promote achieving maximum health outcomes by state health departments and share those within the affiliate network.
2. The Affiliate Organizations will share legislative priorities and align their policies to the extent possible given independent boards.
3. The Affiliated Organizations will conduct meetings to discuss and communicate opportunities or limits imposed by governmental or political entities.

### **NATIONAL COORDINATION**

1. The Affiliated Organizations will work together through phone calls, email, or social media individually and collectively to advocate for more state involvement and consideration in the development of national priorities, agendas, and other forms of policy affecting state health departments.
2. The Affiliated Organizations will work individually and collectively with federal agencies to promote state participation in the development of national policies, which include program design, funding allocation strategies, regulations, and guidelines. To the extent possible we will advocate for federal agencies to support travel for our members to attend Affiliate Organization board meetings and in-person professional development opportunities.
3. ASTHO will promote the value of member engagement in the other Affiliated Organizations to State Health Officials.



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### PROGRAM SUPPORT

1. The Affiliated Organizations will develop joint programs and initiatives on cross-cutting public health issues that promote maximum health outcomes for state health departments (i.e., workforce development).
2. The Affiliated Organizations, when possible, will align programs and initiatives to the maximum degree possible by including each other in FOA responses
3. The Affiliated Organizations will regularly highlight the benefits, services, and accomplishments of the Affiliated Organizations to their respective memberships and to state public health as a whole through communications, publications, and meetings.
4. The Affiliated Organizations will individually and collectively articulate unmet needs, barriers, and challenges facing state-based public health agencies and specific public health programs they administer, through publication of surveys and other instruments and sharing relevant findings with one another.
5. The Affiliated Organizations will share information, electronic and print media, regarding the technical assistance needs of specific programs and jurisdictions and actively collaborate to improve performance and address areas of concern.

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

1. The Affiliated Organizations share a common priority to develop and grow the public health workforce and assure the success of leaders in public health who participate as members in Affiliated organizations.
2. The Affiliated organizations will work collectively to share workforce development and leadership training resources, lessons learned, best practices, and innovative strategies.
3. The Affiliated organizations will develop, prioritize, and implement joint activities to improve the public health workforce morale and skills and to address challenges identified in the public health Wins and other public health workforce surveys.

### ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Affiliated Organizations will seek opportunities to share, assist, or combine organizational development efforts including:

- Governance and board development.
- Membership development and involvement.
- Resource development strategies.
- Office management.
- Conference and meetings management.
- Grant, contract, and cooperative agreement management.
- Education, training, and leadership development (for staff and members).
- Expanding public-private partnerships.

#### ***Approval History:***

*Affiliate Council Review and Approval on April 24, 2020*

*Board Review and Approval May 19, 2020*

*Expire on December 31, 2023*