



Macon County Public Health

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Press Release

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Macon County Public Health Awarded Reaccreditation Designation

Nine health departments were awarded reaccreditation status by the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) Board on December 19th, 2017. They are Anson County Health Department, Catawba County Public Health, Craven County Health Department, Granville-Vance District Health Department, Harnett County Health Department, Lenoir County Health Department, Macon County Health Department, Nash County Health Department, and Stanly County Health Department.

“All of the agencies recently achieving reaccreditation have much to be proud of. They have not only demonstrated their ability to meet a set of important performance standards, but excelled in many areas. Through reaccreditation, these agencies demonstrate a strong commitment to continuously work to improve the quality of services provided to their respective communities,” comments Amy Belflower Thomas, NC Local Health Department Accreditation Administrator.

Reaccredited with Honors designation was awarded to four agencies- Anson County Health Department, Catawba County Public Health, Granville-Vance District Health Department, and Macon County Health Department. This honorary designation was implemented for the first time in the fall of 2017 to recognize agencies that especially excelled in their accreditation assessment by missing one or fewer activities within each of five standards set by the NCLHDA program. The program is especially pleased to see that this special recognition was achieved by such a diverse group of local health departments- including a district model and a health department of only nineteen employees.

North Carolina is the first state in the country to mandate accreditation for its local health departments. The purpose of the accreditation program is to assure a basic level of capacity and services in each of the local health departments across the state.

Since the pilot program involving six local health departments began in 2004, all eighty-five health departments have been accredited in NC and 82 have been reaccredited at least once. The process of accreditation includes three major components – a self-assessment completed by the agency, a site visit by a multidisciplinary team of peers to review performance standards, and determination of accreditation status by an independent Accreditation Board comprised of state and local public health officials, Board of Health members, County Commissioners, and public members.

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The NC Local Health Department Accreditation program is a collaboration of the North Carolina Institute for Public Health (part of the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors, and the North Carolina Division of Public Health (part of the NC Department of Health and Human Services).

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