

# WHY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS NEED TO SUPPORT AND JOIN ANCBH

## Vision and Mission of ANCBH

**Vision:** Excellence in public health in North Carolina.

**Mission:** To provide leadership and support for local Boards of Health in their efforts to protect, promote and advocate for public health.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health has been and continues to be a unique organization serving North Carolina's local boards of health and their members. The Association's goal is clear: to pursue excellence in public health in North Carolina by providing leadership and support for Boards of Health in their efforts to protect and promote the public's health.

ANCBH continues to meet the needs of our members by working with:

- local health directors by attending their monthly meetings, supporting their advocacy efforts and giving a monthly report of our activities;
- the N.C. Institute of Public Health local board of health training program by providing a trainer;
- the N.C. Local Health Department Accreditation Board with four members serving on the board, one as chair, and two members as sub-committee chairs; and

We serve all types of local public health agencies and boards in North Carolina. Board organizations include county health department, district health departments, consolidated departments, and four other models.

Specifically, we work with local health directors and health departments to strengthen local departments thru:

1. **Accreditation:** ANCBH is an active member in the accreditation of local public health departments. Four ANCBH members currently serve on the NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board.

2. **State Awards:** Annual awards are presented at the annual January meeting of the Health Directors recognizing outstanding work by local health directors and boards of health.

3. **Budget:** ANCBH has sponsored grants to various other organizations to promote excellence in promoting public health cooperation between local boards of health, the local health director, and the local health department. ANCBH also gives a \$1000 Vaughn Upshaw Public Health Leadership scholarship to a student at the UNC School of Global Public Health each year. We also developed a "stimulus" program to assist local board of health members to attend the NALBOH national meeting. Four \$500 grants are given to members each year.

4. **Education:** Web page with educational information; advocacy training information; furnish current bibliography for boards; webinars from NALBOH; board information as requested; and updates on governance.

5. **Collaboration** with Allied health groups such as: NCALHD (monthly)  
NC Healthy Schools, Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Public Health and Department of Public Instruction NC Prevention Partners (NCPP),  
The Citizens for Public Health, N.C. Association of County Commissioners, NC Institute of Public health, and others. ANCBH has been granted affiliate membership status to the N.C. Association of County Commissioners.

6. **Advocacy:** To deal with the multi-faceted issues we face in the public health arena, we must find other groups and persons who are committed as well. They may be friends, partners, coalitions, collaborators, or others we will be working with to help us achieve our goals. Remember - "Every Where. Every Day. Every Body."

Some key national advocacy friends and groups include:

National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) – the non-profit, national organization of boards of health to prepare and strengthen boards, and empower boards to promote and protect the health of their communities through education, training, and technical assistance

American Heart Association (AHA) – a non-profit organization to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke

American Public Health Association (APHA) – the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) – the non-profit, national organization representing the nation's approximately 3,000 local health departments (including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies)

ANCBH is a major ADVOCATE for boards of health and health departments in their efforts to protect, promote and advocate for public health.

Contact <http://www.ancbh.org>

**Public Health is key to improving health**