

Public Health Core Functions and 10 Essential Services

Core Function 1 – Assessment

Collecting and analyzing information about health problems.

Essential Service #1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems.

Essential Service #2: Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.

Core Function 2 – Policy Development

Broad-based consultations with stakeholders to weigh available information and decide which interventions are most appropriate and ensure that the public interest is served by measures that are adopted.

Essential Service #3: Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.

Essential Service #4: Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems.

Essential Service #5: Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

Core Function 3 – Assurance

Promoting and protecting public interests through programs, events, campaigns, regulations and other strategies, and making sure that necessary services are provided to reach agreed upon goals.

Essential Service #6: Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety.

Essential Service #7: Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable.

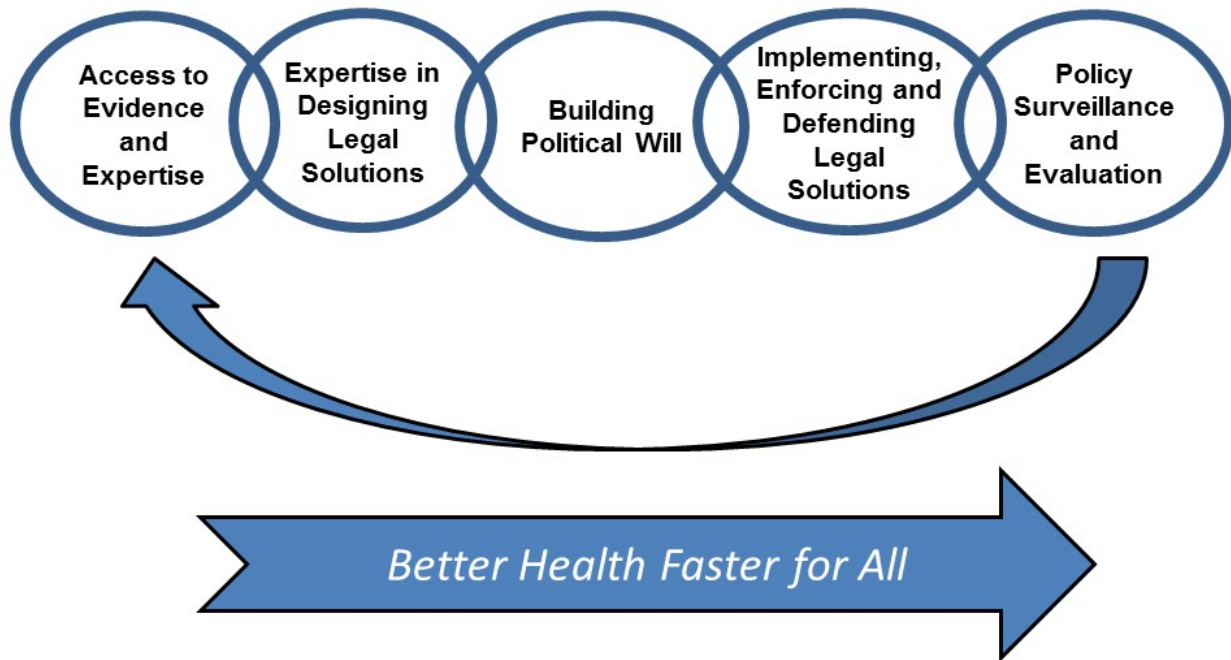
Essential Service #8: Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce.

Essential Service #9: Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services.

Essential Service #10: Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.



The Five Essential Public Health Law Services Framework



What are the Five Essential Public Health Law Services?

- Access to Evidence and Expertise
- Expertise in Designing Legal Solutions
- Building Political Will
- Implementing, Enforcing and Defending Legal Solutions
- Policy Surveillance and Evaluation

“Better Health Faster for All” signifies that the core value of equity and community experiences, expertise, priorities and values are incorporated in each service.

Each service represents a distinct domain of scientific, legal or advocacy work necessary for the timely adoption and diffusion of effective legal health interventions. These elements are based on the recognition that public health law is a “transdisciplinary” endeavor – the essential services are not all purely *legal*, nor are they provided only by lawyers. Instead, researchers and scientists; government officials and practitioners; youth and young adults; business, community, faith and any variety of other leaders may all be involved in any given activity. This endeavor is cross-sectorial as well; the transdisciplinary teams must include those with expertise, methods, tools and perspectives from non-health sectors that impact health.

For more information, visit networkforphl.org/essential.