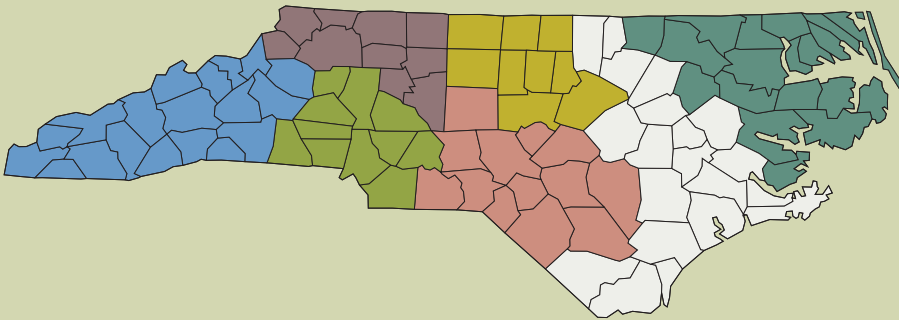


# North Carolina Public Health Incubator Collaboratives *Better Together*

## What are Public Health Incubators?

Public Health Incubators are voluntary teams of local public health agencies, leveraging resources to promote regional collaboration and accomplish shared public health goals. Incubator priorities, projects, and policies are chosen from the bottom up by the incubator participants.



- Central NC Partnership for Public Health
- Northeastern NC Partnership for Public Health
- Northwest NC Partnership for Public Health
- South Central NC Partnership for Public Health
- Southern Piedmont NC Partnership for Public Health
- Western NC Partnership for Public Health

## What is the purpose of Incubators?

- To supplement the limited public health resources of rural, tier-one counties
- To identify regional public health priorities and introduce related, evidence-based interventions
- To introduce, evaluate, and where appropriate, disseminate innovative public health practices

### Why the name "Incubators?"

The name is borrowed from the "incubator" business concept - a new organization to incubate new products and services. A public health incubator is a new, collaborative vehicle for the delivery of public health in NC. Incubator projects introduce new ways of doing business and supplement resources for under-resourced local health departments.

## How does the Incubators program work?

Individual Incubator Partnerships, made up of local health department directors across North Carolina, meet on a regular basis to determine regional priorities, share ideas, leverage resources, and create applicable solutions to common public health challenges.

A steering committee made up of local health directors provides oversight to the statewide program with assistance from staff at the NCIPH. Together they direct policies, procedures, and accountability for Incubator projects, programs and regions.

## Who participates in Incubators?

Local health directors are the primary participants of Incubators. They serve on regional partnership boards and provide an effective collaborative leadership model.

Staff from local health departments work together on coordinated workgroups and task forces to carry out Incubator project missions, share resources, and strive to create best practices.

Project staff manage and implement incubator projects. They are typically funded by grants and contracts.

## What have Incubators accomplished?

The Incubator Program has grown from one partnership in 19 counties (the pioneering Northeastern NC Partnership for Public Health) to six partnerships across 81 counties.

Currently, Partnerships are engaged in more than 30 projects statewide.

The Partnerships have raised more than \$14 million in grant and contract dollars for local public health.

## How are Incubators funded?

The North Carolina Public Health Incubator Collaboratives Program receives core funding from the North Carolina legislature with \$950,000 in recurring funds.

The NC Division of Public Health contracts with the NCIPH to coordinate the program.

The six partnerships have secured additional money in grants and contracts to support their projects.

## How can my health department join an Incubator?

There are currently six Incubator Partnerships across 81 counties. Contact the NC Institute for Public Health to answer to any questions you may have and to discuss your options.

## Can I participate in an Incubator project?

If you are interested in any particular project please contact the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. Visit our website: <http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/incubator>. All Incubator projects and priorities are listed on this site under each partnership.

## Who coordinates Incubator activities?

**Project Coordinators:** Each partnership now has some staff support to assist the health directors in carrying out projects and promoting effective communication.

**North Carolina Institute for Public Health:** Provides coordination and oversight of the overall incubator program and provides support, additional resources and guidance to project coordinators.

**NC Division of Public Health (NCDPH):** Prevents duplication of state provided services and provides state level perspective on Incubator activities and projects.

## What is the NCIPH role in Incubators?

- Provides administrative oversight and guidance for the Incubators program (e.g. reporting, steering committee, project selection, financial management)
- Coordinates informational strategies - promotional materials, websites, conferences
- Supports sustained Incubator collaboration with evaluations, training, strategic planning and team-building activities
- Provides logistical support for selected partnership related conferences and meetings
- Provides selected trainings and staff development
- Provides project management for selected Incubator projects
- Provides transitional support for Partnership changes in leadership
- “Fills in the Gaps”, anticipating Incubator needs to move projects and activities forward and to improve the overall functioning and effectiveness of incubators
- Connects research and practice