

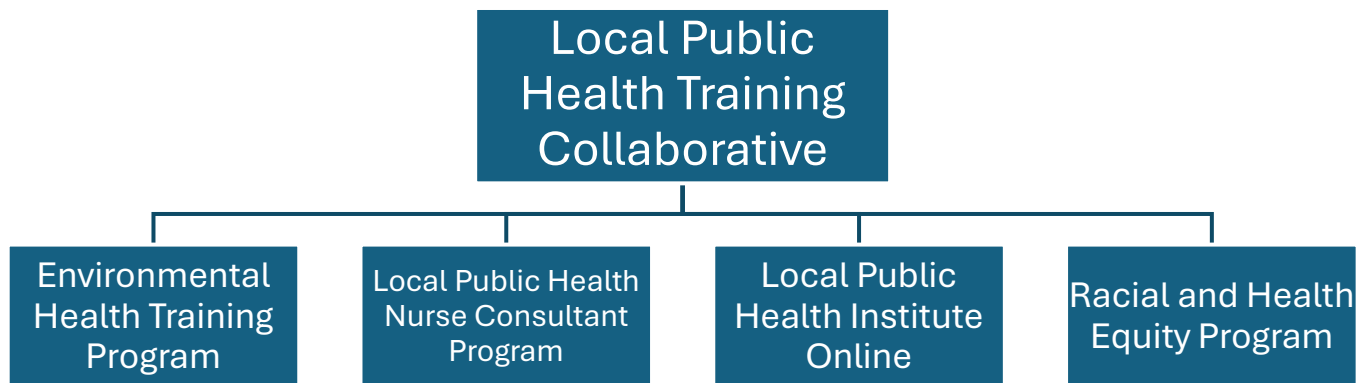
## The Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Collaborative

The Massachusetts Local Public Health Training Collaborative (MA-LPHTC) began in July 2022 to implement the [Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health's recommendations](#) to establish education and training standards for local public health and to expand access to geographically diverse professional development opportunities, as later codified in [SAPHE 2.0](#)<sup>1</sup>.

This training collaborative is a partnership among the Department of Public Health Office of Local and Regional Health, Department of Environmental Protection, academic institutions, local public health professional organizations and partners, and other state agencies.

The training collaborative has four programs:

- Environmental Health Training Program
- Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program
- Local Public Health Institute Online (LPHI Online)
- Racial and Health Equity Program



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<sup>1</sup> M.G.L. c. 111 s. 27D and Sections 307-309 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024

## Environmental Health Training Program

The Environmental Health Training Program (EHTP) provides an expanding and robust set of skill-based learning opportunities that align with the environmental health duties of local public health. The courses offered under this program assist local public health professionals to meet the Workforce Standards.

The Environmental Health Training program currently offers the following courses:

- [Massachusetts Retail Food Inspection Training](#)
- [Massachusetts Housing Inspection Training](#)

Other courses that are in development-include:

- Recreational camps
- Wastewater
- Pools
- Tanning
- Body art
- Nuisances

The training offered through the EHTP program is spearheaded by the Massachusetts Training Hub Program, which was established as a key component of the MA-LPHTC in 2023 to support offering geographically equitable training opportunities to local public health in Massachusetts. There are 10 training hubs whose collective coverage area encompasses all 351 municipalities and two federally recognized tribes. Training hubs serve as an essential point of contact for local public health to offer mentorship, in-person training opportunities, technical assistance, and resources. To find your training hub, use the [Training Hub Locator Tool](#)

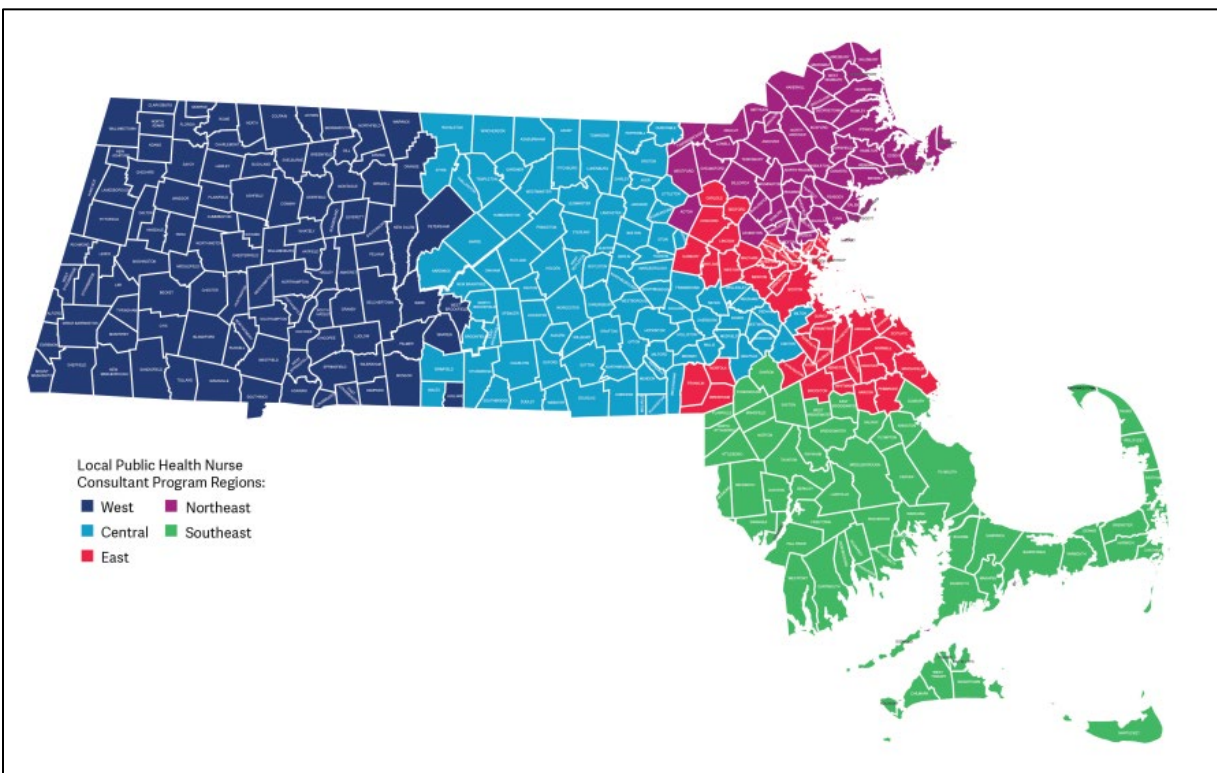
EHTP Courses developed in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Boston University School of Public Health, the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, and the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association. This collaboration allows training to deliver a robust and comprehensive learning experience that integrates policy, research, and practical expertise to meet the evolving needs of public health professionals.

## Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program

The [Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program](#) addresses the diverse health challenges that communities across Massachusetts face. A collaboration between the UMass Elaine Marieb College of Nursing and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the program advances the mission of the [Blueprint for Public Health Excellence](#) and supports the advancement of [Foundational Public Health Services \(FPHS\)](#) for all communities. Five Public Health Nurse (PHN) Consultants provide support, technical assistance, and guidance as needed to all PHNs and other health department staff to address the unique needs of each community. Examples include screening for high blood pressure (hypertension), vaccination clinics, harm reduction, or maternal child visiting programs.

The program delivers services in three main areas:

- Clinical consultation
- Training program
- Workforce development



## Local Public Health Institute Online

The [Local Public Health Institute Online](#) (LPHI Online) offers an catalog of over 50 self-paced, on-demand courses through TRAIN Massachusetts. TRAIN Massachusetts is a learning platform that offers a comprehensive catalog of public health training opportunities developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to help you advance your skills and knowledge regarding a variety of public health topics.

Many of these courses on LPHI Online offer continuing education contact hours for Massachusetts Registered Sanitarians and Certified Health Officers. Additionally, two of the courses required for local public health professionals under the Workforce Standards are offered exclusively online through LPHI Online ([Foundations for Local Public Health Practice](#) and [Modified Foundations Course for Administrative Staff](#)).

In addition to courses offered through LPHI Online, joining TRAIN Massachusetts connects you to the [TRAIN Learning Network](#), granting you access to thousands of free on-demand trainings developed by state and national government agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions.

## Racial and Health Equity Program

The Racial and Health Equity Program provides racial and health equity training and technical support for local public health professionals throughout the Commonwealth. These opportunities are facilitated by [\*Growing a New Heart \(GANH\)\*](#). There are two trainings offered to local public health professionals:

- [Broadening the Lens](#)
- [Dialogues Across Differences](#)

Additionally, GANH offers topic-based sessions for technical support on linguistic justice, environmental justice, and workforce diversity.

For more information on the racial and health equity training and technical support, please email Amparo Cruz, GANH, Racial and Health Equity Manager, Amparo Cruz at [acruz@growinganewheart.org](mailto:acruz@growinganewheart.org)

## Appendix A: Workforce Standards for Local Public Health

The Workforce Standards were recommended by the Special Commission in their final report (Blueprint) and they are part of the Local Public Health Performance Standards codified in the SAPHE legislation. The following trainings required by the Workforce Standards are currently being offered by MA-LPHTC.

The following trainings are currently offered to Local Public Health through the MA-LPHTC to support meeting the Workforce Standards:

### **Foundations of Local Public Health Practice**

**Course Description:** No matter where people are in Massachusetts (at home, work, school, or play) local boards of health (LBOH) are responsible for ensuring their safety and well-being. With a LBOH for each of its 351 cities and towns, taking a collaborative and cross-disciplinary approach to local public health practice is a key to success. Using the frameworks of the ten essential public health services and the foundational public health services, this course prepares local public health practitioners to: promote the physical, behavioral, environmental, social, and economic conditions that improve health and well-being; prevent illness, disease, injury, and premature death; and eliminate health disparities. Upon completion of these courses, learners with a minimum score of 80% will receive a certificate of completion.

This course is required for all Management, Management/Agent, Inspector/Sanitarian, Public Health Nurse and Board of Health positions listed under the Workforce Standards: Educational, Training, and Credentialing Recommendations. **Format:** Online, self-paced

**Registration:** Rolling

**Estimated Time to Complete:** 22 hours

### **Modified Foundations Course for Administrative Staff**

**Description:** Administrative staff play a vital (and often varied) role in protecting and promoting the health of their communities. Introduction to Local Public Health: Administrative Staff is a free, self-paced online program providing new and experienced local Board of Health administrative staff with core knowledge and skills necessary to increase the impact and efficiency of their work.

The Modified Foundations Course for Administrative Staff in Massachusetts includes six courses that provide a broad understanding of the fundamentals of public health. The courses are taught by experienced local health professionals who understand the day-to-day challenges of working in a fast-paced Board of Health.

This course is required for all Clerical Staff positions listed under the Workforce Standards: Educational, Training, and Credentialing Recommendations.

**Format:** Online, self-paced.

**Registration:** Rolling

**Estimated Time to Complete:** 6.5 hours

### *Massachusetts Retail Food Inspection Training Program*

**Description:** The Massachusetts Retail Food Inspection Training Program is designed for municipal and state health inspectors charged with enforcing Massachusetts Sanitary Codes 105 CMR 590.000 and the 2013 FDA Model Food Code and Supplements. This training has three tiers required for completion: Online self-study (Tier 1), instructor-led classroom training (Tier 2), and applied practice in small groups or 1 on 1 (Tier 3)

To learn more about the Food Inspection Training Program, including how to register, please visit the following page in TRAIN: [About: MA Retail Food Inspection Training Program](#)

### *Massachusetts Housing Inspection Training Program*

**Description:** The Massachusetts Housing Inspection Training Program is designed for municipal and state Health Inspectors charged with enforcing housing-related laws and regulations, including State Sanitary Codes (SSC) 105 CMR 400.000: General Administrative Procedures (400) and 410.000: Minimum Standards of Fitness for Human Habitation (410). This training has three tiers required for completion: Online self-study (Tier 1), instructor-led classroom training (Tier 2), and applied practice in small groups or 1 on 1 (Tier 3)

To learn more about the Housing Inspection Training Program, including how to register, please visit the following page in TRAIN: [About: MA Housing Inspection Training Program](#)

## Appendix B: Racial and Health Equity Descriptions

### *Broadening the Lens*

**Broadening the Lens** is an introductory 3- hour learning event that explores how to examine public health questions through the lens of racial and social justice, and how to approach existing inequities in practical ways. Together, participants will examine the impact of historical context and practice on current day complex public health challenges. We will analyze a framework and relevant vocabulary for approaching these complexities within our MA communities.

Learners leave with a more expansive lens with which they can assess and address the public health concerns in their own communities.

### *Dialogues Across Differences*

How do we talk about race? Gender? Equity?

Enhance your skills in facilitating conversations across profound differences of experience, social location and understanding.

Learn the skills necessary to facilitate dialogue through an approach that will strengthen the abilities you already have.

Drawing on current research, ancient global wisdom teachings, Popular Education, Dialogue Education and theories of adult learning, we will practice shaping dialogue and engaging in productive conversations across differences in a way that strengthens us all.

#### **In this training, participants will learn to:**

- Engage adults in a process of learning and social change that employs a set of Popular Education principles that are respectful, empowering and accountable.
- Work with content about intersectional oppression, anticipating tensions to address common and predictable misconceptions, values and conflicts in our communities and culture.
- Find restorative resources for oneself.
- Learn when to apply this learning and when best to hold back.
- Identify powerful facilitate questions and create opportunities to practice skills and receive feedback in a respectful, challenging, and energetic forum.