

2021-2022 Behavioral Health Training Institute for Health Officials Request for Applications

The National Council for Mental Wellbeing is pleased to announce the **2021-2022 Behavioral Health Training Institute (BHTI) for Health Officials**.

Through a Request for Applications (RFA) process, up to 50 public health and behavioral health officials will be selected to participate in the seventh cohort of this eight-month professional development initiative. Selected health officials will gain direct access to training and technical assistance opportunities on behavioral health topics, including but not limited to:

- Cultivating mental health resiliency and supporting crisis leadership during COVID-19.
- Building and/or enhancing trauma- and resilience-focused mental health and substance use supports during COVID-19.
- Addressing and integrating mental wellness in public health settings.
- Promoting health equity, addressing health disparities and integrating the social determinants of health.
- Implementing evidence-based/informed behavioral health interventions.
- Building and/or enhancing cross-sector partnerships between public health and behavioral health systems.

Program Overview

From December 2021 through July 2022, the BHTI cohort will participate in:

- One introductory webinar.
- One two-day training. (**Virtual or in-person/hybrid format pending approval of in-person meetings.*)
- Up to six online applied learning sessions on pertinent mental health and substance use topics.
- Up to six online applied workshops on cultivating trauma-informed resilience-oriented leadership during COVID-19.
- Additional ongoing didactic trainings, interactive office hours, technical assistance trainings for staff, peer resource sharing and Mental Health First Aid training(s).

The two-day training will take place in early April 2022 (specific dates TBD). Program participants will also be granted the opportunity to attend [NatCon22](#) (the National Council's conference on mental health and substance use care) for FREE. **Thanks to support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Center for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support (CSTLTS), the National Council will cover conference registration fees for program participants and travel and lodging expenses pending approval of in-person meeting travel.**¹ NatCon conference registration fees will be covered for program participants regardless of virtual or in-person conference attendance.

¹ This project is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$250,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS or the U.S. Government.

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To inform the technical assistance and resources offered throughout the program, applicants will be asked to complete a brief behavioral health training and technical assistance needs survey as part of the application process.

Up to 50 public health and behavioral health officials, including individuals and paired teams, will be selected to participate in this program.

Program Activities

Participants should be available to participate in at least 80 percent of the following program activities:

- One BHTI introductory/orientation webinar (Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. ET).
- One two-day training* (***virtual or in-person format pending approval of in-person meetings/travel**).
 - The two-day training institute (April 2022, specific dates TBD) will include:
 - An interactive training to provide mental health tools to health officials using the Mental Health First Aid curriculum.
 - An intensive behavioral health training institute in collaboration with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and select state legislators and legislative staff focused on the systems, challenges and opportunities facing public health and behavioral health jurisdictions around the country.
 - Networking event: Public and behavioral health officials, select state legislators and legislative staff and leaders from across the health care field.
 - **NOTE: The National Council will collaborate with NCSL on the two-day training institute, during which health officials will be joined by up to 40 selected state legislators and/or legislative staff.**
- FREE access to NatCon22, April 11-13, 2022.
 - Conference programming for public and behavioral health official program participants, including the conference public health track workshop sessions.
 - Access to ground-breaking Conference speakers. Past NatCon speakers include:
 - Hillary Clinton, American politician
 - Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW, social scientist and best-selling author
 - Nora Volkow, MD, brain science pioneer
 - Tom Insel, MD, top neurologist and former National Institute of Mental Health director
 - Vivek Murthy, MD, U.S. surgeon general
- Up to six topic-specific webinars will be available to program participants based on state- or jurisdiction-specific needs and concerns identified by health officials.
- Up to six applied workshops on cultivating trauma-informed resilience-oriented leadership during COVID-19.
- Health officials will receive a monthly virtual survey to solicit any ad hoc, tailored training and technical assistance needs they may have.

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***In-person meetings:** To ensure the health and safety of staff, health officials and our communities, the National Council will comply with all local laws and ordinances around meetings, size restrictions and precautions. At this time, we anticipate in-person meetings to resume in some capacity in 2022; however, we are committed to transitioning all programmatic offerings into the virtual space as needed should in-person meetings be restricted due to COVID-19.

Program Expectations

The estimated time commitment for participation in this program for eight months is roughly 35-40 hours (introductory webinar, two-day training, NatCon22, up to twelve one-hour webinars and resource sharing). More information about previous NatCon conferences is available at <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/events-and-training/natcon22/>

Travel, lodging expenses and conference registration for the training institute (April 2022) and NatCon22 (April 11-13, 2022) will be covered for program participants by the National Council. *

***NOTE:** In order for the National Council to cover a participant's travel, lodging and conference registration expenses, attendance at the two-day training is MANDATORY. Participants will be required to verify attendance in the two-day training.

Applicant Eligibility

This opportunity is open to any public health official of a state, tribal, territorial or local governmental public health agency. Public health officials can apply as an individual or in partnership with a behavioral health official. Interested behavioral health agencies must apply in partnership with an official from the public health department/agency within their jurisdiction. Behavioral health and public health agency partnerships are encouraged to apply as a team. Preference will be given to team applications with one public health official and one behavioral health official.

Public health officials are the chief health officials or highest-ranking employees with administrative and managerial authority for governmental health agencies. According to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), state or territorial health officials are defined as "chief health officials for each U.S. state and territory, as well as the District of Columbia," and most often have job titles such as state health official (SHO), state health secretary or commissioner of health. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) defines local and tribal health officials as "the top executives at a local health department (LHD)" who are responsible for the overall administration of the LHD. Local and tribal health department top executives have many different titles across the United States such as director, health officer, nurse manager, health commissioner and others. The top agency executive is defined as the highest-ranking employee with administrative and managerial authority at the level of the LHD. In addition to tribal health officials working within a specific tribe/reservation, program participation is open to those urban Indian health officials serving in leadership positions within Urban Indian Health Programs (UIHPs) and Urban Indian Health Organizations (UIHOs). The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) describes UIHPs as programs that "fulfill the federal government's health care-related responsibility for Indians who live off the reservations," which are typically managed by an executive director and board of directors. The Urban Indian Health Institute

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(UIHI) defines UIHOs as “private, non-profit corporations that serve American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people in select cities with a range of health and social services, from outreach and referral to full ambulatory care.”

Behavioral health officials are eligible to apply **only in partnership with a public health official from the public health department/agency within their jurisdiction**. Behavioral health officials are identified as executive-level professionals with a behavioral health agency/organization providing direct services to individuals with mental illnesses and/or addictions. The behavioral health agency must be located in the same jurisdiction as the public health department/agency with which they are applying.

Public health officials may apply as an individual or as a team in partnership with a health official from a partnering behavioral health agency within their jurisdiction. Preference will be given to team applications with one public health official and one behavioral health official.

Application Submission

All applications are due by **11:59 p.m. ET** on **Wednesday, November 3, 2021**, and must be submitted online through the following link: [LINK](#)

The application is expected to take an average of 10-15 minutes to complete. Selected applicants will be notified on or before Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

**Questions about the application or this initiative? Contact Seidale Shipman at
SeidaleS@thenationalcouncil.org**

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2021-2022 Behavioral Health Training Institute

Application Questions (for reference only)

Do not print and fill out this application. All final applications must be submitted online at:

[AWARDFORCE LINK TO APPLICATION](#)

Part I. Demographics.

Public Health Official					
First and Last Name					
Credentials					
Job Title					
Public Health Department/Agency					
Physical Address					
Email Address					
Phone Number					
Have you or someone else from your agency participated in this program before?	Y/N If yes, please provide the past participants' name:				
Please select your US HHS Region .	Region I: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT	Region II: NJ, NY, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands	Region III: DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV	Region IV: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN	Region V: IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI
	Region VI: AR, LA, NM, OK, TX	Region VII: IA, KS, MO, NE	Region VIII: CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY	Region IX: AZ, CA, HI, NV and the six U.S. Associated Pacific Jurisdictions	Region X: AK, ID, OR, WA

***NOTE:** Public health officials are eligible to apply for this opportunity as individual applicants OR as paired team applications in collaboration with their counterpart from a behavioral health organization within their jurisdiction. Applicants who are applying as paired teams in conjunction with a behavioral health official should provide their counterpart's contact information below. Responses to the short answer questions in Part III of this application should reflect both health officials.

Public health officials applying as individual applicants can skip the next section and go directly to Part II.

Partnering Behavioral Health Official (optional)	
First and Last Name	
Credentials	
Job Title	
Behavioral Health Agency	
Physical Address	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Have you or someone else from your agency participated in this program before?	Y/N If yes, please provide the past participants' name:

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Part II. Assessment.

This section will help inform the institute curriculum and the behavioral health training for health officials. We would like to know more about what content would make this training institute most valuable to you and your agency.

<p>What types of behavioral health (mental health and/or substance use) prevention programming, treatment and supportive services are currently provided within your health department's scope of services? <i>(this should include direct service provision as well as via referrals to other providers)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health prevention programming and treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use prevention and screening <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Substance use recovery and support services <input type="checkbox"/> Social services <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis intervention <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient services <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual support groups and peer-run services <input type="checkbox"/> At home through tele-behavioral or home-based services <input type="checkbox"/> School-based services <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify
<p>What challenges or barriers does your agency face in addressing the mental health and/or substance use treatment needs within your jurisdiction? <i>(200-word limit)</i></p>	
<p>Please describe any recent legislative or policy changes that have aided and/or presented challenges in your work to address behavioral health needs in your community or jurisdiction. (200-word limit)</p>	

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Please select the top five behavioral health topic areas that you want to address through participation in this program AND briefly describe what you'd like to know more about related to the topic(s) selected.

Behavioral Health Topic Area	Would you like to learn more about this topic?	Briefly describe what specifically you'd like to know more about.
Building cross-state and cross-sector partnerships		
Trauma informed resilience-oriented care		
COVID-19 and trauma-informed resilience-oriented care for leadership, staff and community mental health resiliency		
Mental health and substance use COVID-19 response and recovery		
Integrating mental health and substance use services into public health		
The science of addiction (e.g., using the science of drugs, brain science and behavior to develop effective prevention and treatment approaches)		
Public health programming addressing the opioid epidemic		
Mental health and substance use legislative/policy development		
Children's mental health and expanded access to mental health services		
Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) and other risk factors for addiction		
Intersection of health disparities, racial inequity and mental health equity		
Mental Health First Aid® (e.g., training provision, expanded target audiences, legislative support)		
Mental health and substance use partnerships with criminal justice/legal system		
Workforce development: Building behavioral health capacity among public health workforce		
Integrating substance use treatment services into public health/primary care settings		
Behavioral health treatment models that can be adapted for and implemented in public health systems/settings (e.g., collaborative care, SBIRT, problem-solving treatment behavioral activation, motivational interviewing)		
Extending the care continuum to support long-term recovery		
Harm reduction models that address substance use issues		

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Part III. Short Answer.

1. Why are you interested in participating in the Behavioral Health Training Institute for Health Officials program? (400-word limit)
2. What do you hope to gain from participating in this program? (250-word limit)
3. Please describe any collaborations/partnerships you currently have and/or wish to have with mental health and substance use partners. Please include a description(s) of any projects/initiatives that could be leveraged to support organizational change. If you do not currently have existing collaborations/partnerships, please indicate any plans/ideas you have related to establishing such. (250-word limit)

Question #4 for paired team applications only:

4. What enhanced/improved partnership opportunities between your respective agencies do you anticipate by participating in this program? (250-word limit)

Part IV. Participation Checklist and Applicant Confirmation.

<p>We'd like each participant to commit to participating in at least 80% of the outlined program activities.</p>	<p>Please select all of the activities you will participate in if selected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Introductory webinar for health officials: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. ET<input type="checkbox"/> Up to twelve topic-specific webinars: Webinars are tentatively scheduled for twice a month, beginning at the end of January 2022. Topics are TBD based on participant assessment needs.<input type="checkbox"/> 2-day BHTI training:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Date(s) TBD – April 2022<input type="checkbox"/> NatCon22, which will feature a customized public health track for health officials and renowned expert speakers.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Monday, April 11, 2022: Day 1, NatCon22<input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday, April 12, 2022: Day 2, NatCon22 (continued)<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, April 13, 2022: Day 3, NatCon22 (continued), ends by 1 p.m.<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health Training Institute for Health Officials cohort file-sharing website, which will include a resource library, regular posting of latest and greatest news and tools in behavioral health and access to National Council webinars customized to meet the identified needs of health officials.
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