



# North Carolina

## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

# Role & Expectations of Accreditation

LHD Legal Conference

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UNC  
GILLINGS SCHOOL OF  
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

THE NORTH CAROLINA  
*Institute for Public Health*



# What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is defined as: the development of a set of standards, a process to measure health department performance against those standards, and some form of reward or recognition for those agencies meeting the standards.

*Exploring Accreditation*





# General concepts

- Challenging but Attainable
- Develop effective standards, policies, and decisions that advance quality, cooperation, and creativity within the public health system





# General concepts

- Over time, standards increase and tighten conformity (with notice)
- New interpretation for documentation





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## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

### A good accreditation program:

- Identifies performance improvement opportunities
- Improves management
- Challenges the agency (raises the bar)





## NCLHD Accreditation

a status granted to LHD that meet or exceed stated criteria of capacity and quality (minimum standards) assessing the general efforts of the local health department, not the specific outcomes of programs or services





## NC Administrative Code

- Defines the 41 Benchmarks and the 148 Activities
- Must meet 33 of 41 Benchmarks
  - None required





## Two fundamental purposes:

- to certify the capacity of the local health department to deliver the ten essential services
- to incite and assist in the performance improvement of the local health department.







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## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

- Accreditation is not:
  - a guarantee of outcome for services or programs
- Accreditation is:
  - to give reasonable assurance of the basic quality and the capacity to provide core public health functions.





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## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

- Accreditation is not:
  - designed to “fail” agencies or to point out who is good or bad
- Accreditation is:
  - to move the practice of PH in NC forward





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## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

- Accreditation is not:
  - a competition between or a comparison of Local Health Departments
- Accreditation is:
  - a measure of your conformity to standards at a particular point in time





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## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION

- Accreditation is not:
  - a restatement of your statutory and NCAC requirements
- Accreditation is:
  - the expectations we would want for any LHD accredited.





## Example: Activity 17.1

- The local health department shall ***conduct inspection and permitting activities for state mandated environmental health regulatory programs.***





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Accreditation declares that the LHD:

- has an appropriate mission and purpose
- has the resources needed
- can demonstrate that it is accomplishing its mission and purpose
- will continue to accomplish its mission and purpose





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Accreditation  
is not the endpoint,  
but the beginning.

