



National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NACCHO AWARDS FUNDING TO ENHANCE COORDINATION OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**Washington, DC, May 4, 2016**—The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has awarded up to \$25,000 each to eleven local health departments to enhance coordination for preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks. With support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Lessons in Infection Control (LINC) Initiative award recipients will test new approaches to prepare for and respond to Ebola, healthcare-associated infections, and other emerging infectious diseases.

The LINC Initiative supports local health departments in improving healthcare and community infection control practices by working with hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other healthcare settings to identify and address needs and opportunities. Award recipients will test creative solutions addressing the gaps identified during the U.S. response to Ebola, and ways to combat the 700,000 healthcare-associated infections in the U.S. each year. The award also sponsors local health department staff to receive certification in infection control.

“Those of us in public health are learning hard lessons about preparation and response to healthcare-associated infections and diseases, including Ebola and Zika: that concerted coordination, preparation, and response are the keys to keeping our

communities healthy. The LINC awards will go a long way in giving these eleven local health departments the freedom and ability to create strategic partnerships that will outlast the life of the grant,” said Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, executive director of NACCHO.

Local health departments that received the award include the following:

- Barren River District Health Department (KY)
- Clark County Public Health (WA)
- Eau Claire City-County Health Department (WI)
- El Paso County Public Health (CO)
- Flathead City-County Health Department (MT)
- Florida DOH Pasco County
- Kent County Health Department (MI)
- Marion County Public Health Department (IN)
- Kanawha-Charleston Health Department (WV)
- Public Health – Seattle & King County (WA)
- St. Louis City Department of Health (MO)

The awardees will implement this project throughout 2016.

## **ABOUT NACCHO**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is the national nonprofit association representing the approximately 2,800 local health departments (LHDs) in the United States, including city, county, metro, district, and tribal agencies. NACCHO’s vision is health, equity, and security for all people in their communities through public health policies and services. NACCHO’s mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

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