



# Public Health Reaccreditation Update

Goodhue County HHS Board  
February 17, 2026

Ruth Greenslade, MPP Healthy Communities Supervisor



# About Ruth Greenslade

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- Healthy Communities Supervisor
- Masters in Public Policy, University of Minnesota
- Leads a team of 9 staff focused on community health and foundational capabilities
- Areas of work: Healthy Eating, Active Living, Tobacco, Cannabis, Opioids, Suicide Prevention, Traffic Safety, CHNA/CHIP, Equity, Strategic Plan, Accreditation, Performance Management & Quality Improvement, Emergency Preparedness, Communications
- 12 years with Goodhue County
- Previous experience: Dodge County & U of M Extension
- Fun fact: Former Goodhue County 4-H Council President



# Agenda

## Background

What is Reaccreditation?

## Timeline

GCHHS's path to Reaccreditation

## Value

Why Reaccreditation?

# Background

# What is Reaccreditation?

**Continuous Improvement**

toward

**National Standards**



## What is Reaccreditation?

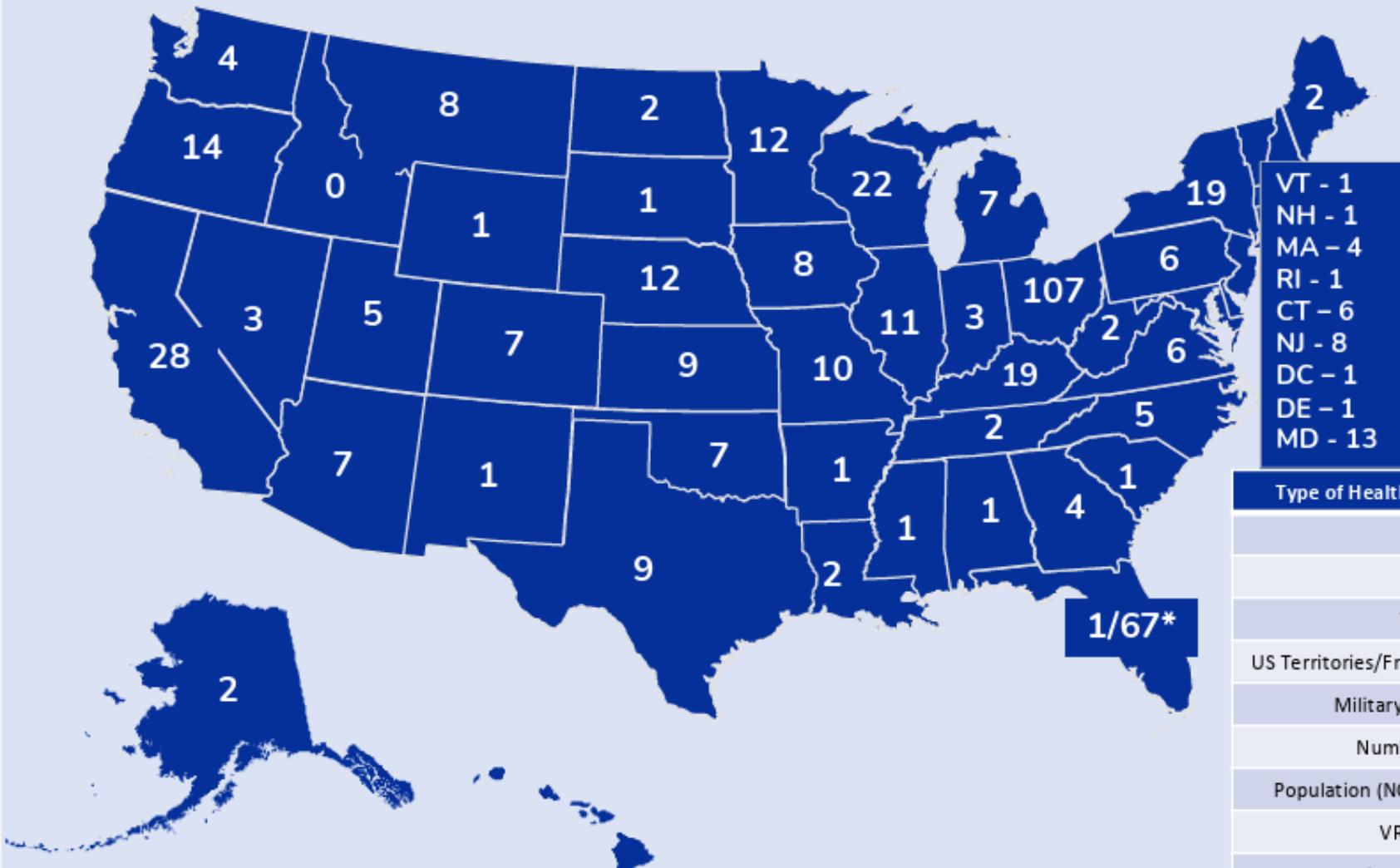
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Reaccreditation ensures accredited departments continue to improve their public health practice.

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To maintain accreditation status, a health department must be evaluated against national standards 5 years after accreditation status was awarded.

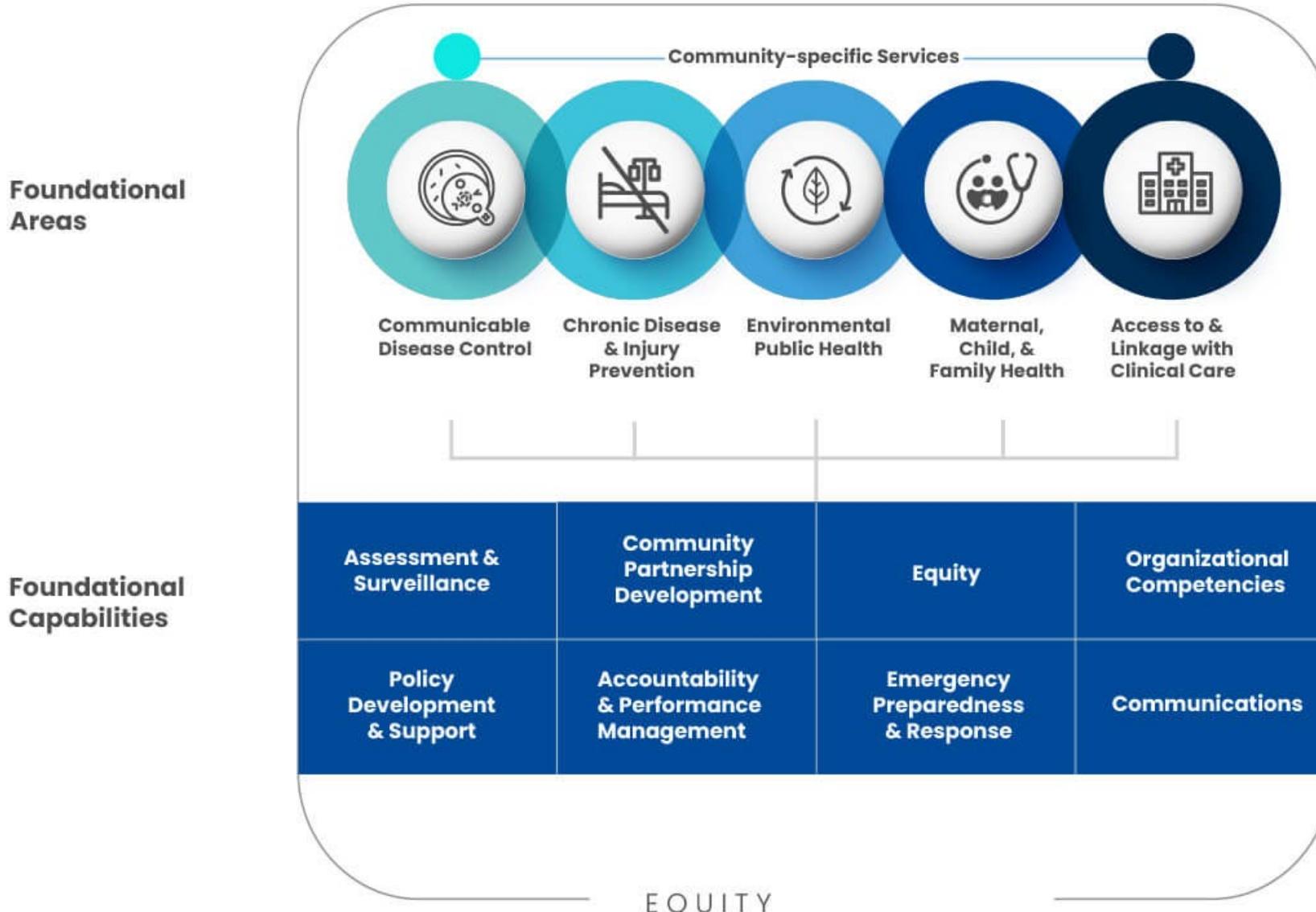
# Accreditation Activity as of November 24, 2025



Numbers on the map represent the total number of accredited health departments and vital records and health statistics units in each state.

Type of Health Department/Unit	Accredited	In Process	Total in e-PHAB
Local	414	158	572
State	40	3	43
Tribal	8	6	14
US Territories/Freely Associated States	-	3	3
Military Installations	5	10	15
Number of HDs	467	180	647
Population (NOT Unduplicated)**	413,917,300	35,326,629	449,243,929
VRHS Unit	5	16	21
International	1	-	1

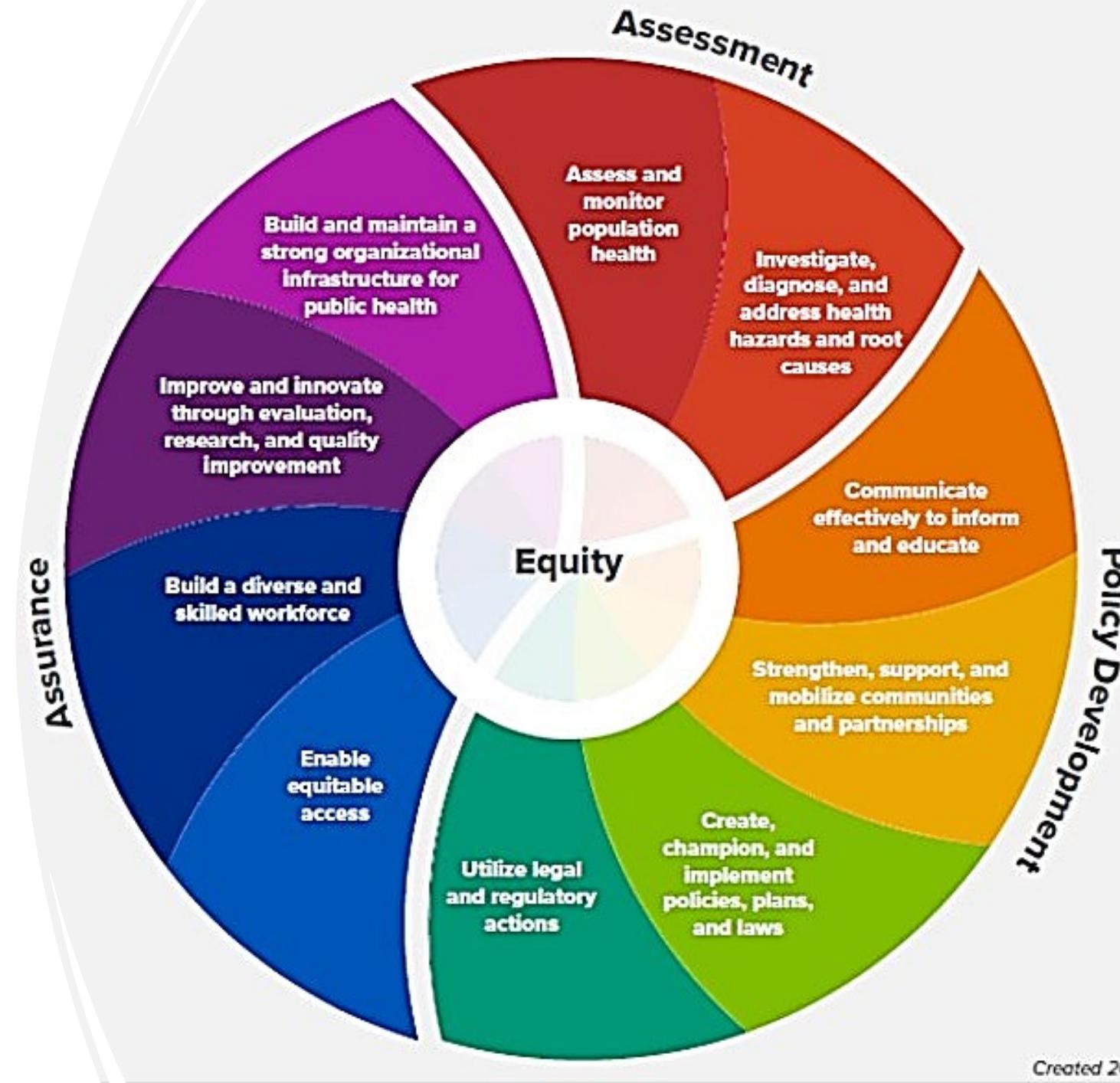
# Foundational Public Health Services



# 10 Essential PH Services

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To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities



### Foundational Public Health Services



PHAB

### THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

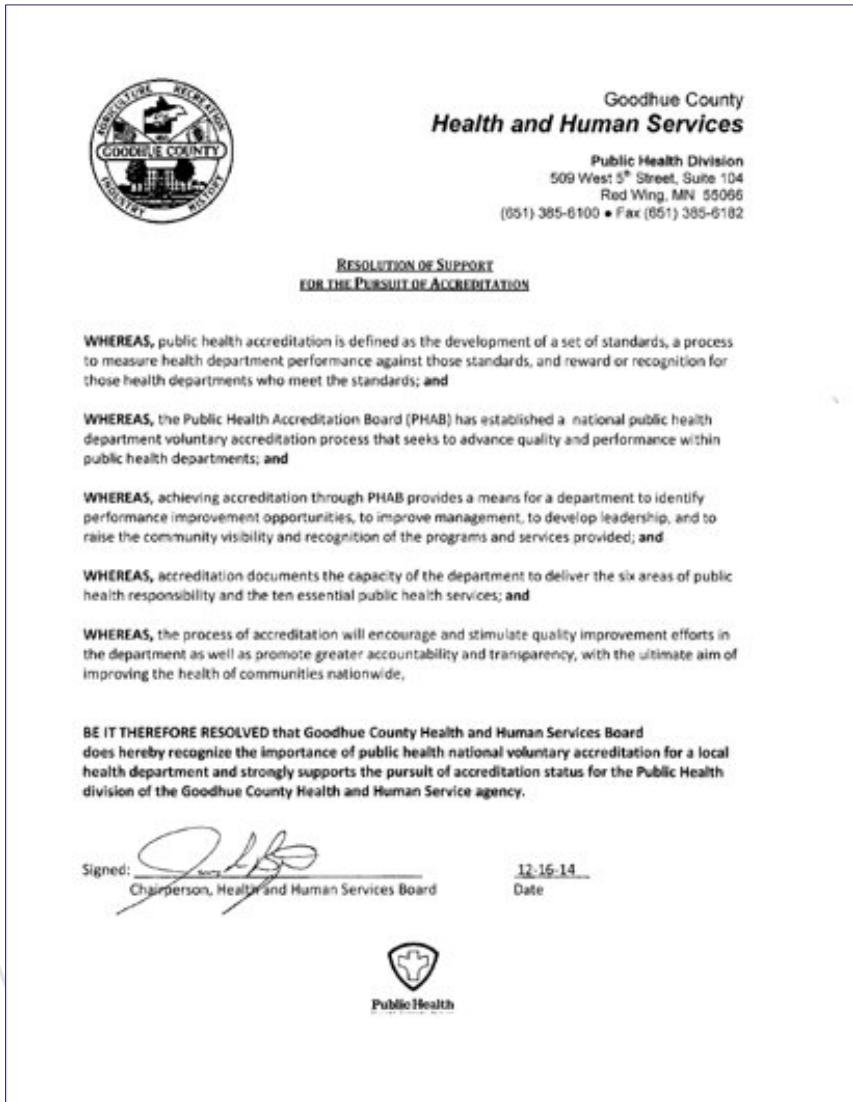
The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, programs, and services that create good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



- Minimum
- Governmental
- Describes activities
- Governmental + community partners
- Continuous improvement
- Governmental

# Timeline

# HHS Board Resolution, Dec. 2014



# GCHHS Accredited, June 2019

## GOODHUE COUNTY NEWS FLASH

Posted on: June 21, 2019

### Congratulations to Goodhue County Health & Human Services!

Goodhue County Health and Human Services announced today that it has achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The national accreditation program works to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing and ultimately transforming the quality and performance of the nation's state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments. Goodhue County Health & Human Services is one of fewer than 300 health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011.



The Lake City Graphic

## Public health earns accreditation

From Goodhue County Health and Human Services Goodhue County Health and Human Services has an-

The national accreditation program, jointly supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and

lies, and Communities!"

Public health departments play a critical role in protecting and improving the health

program was created collaboratively over a 10-year period by hundreds of public health practitioners working

PAGE 4A • NEWS-RECORD, WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019

## Goodhue County HHS awarded national accreditation

By Goodhue County Health and Human Services Goodhue County Health and

Accreditation process helps to ensure that our work is guided by proven, effective national

Health and Human Services. "During this process, we identified strengths and weaknesses

departments in a strong commitment to their public health mission," said PHAB Director

for the program. As of June 11, 2019, there are now 268 PHAB-accredited health departments

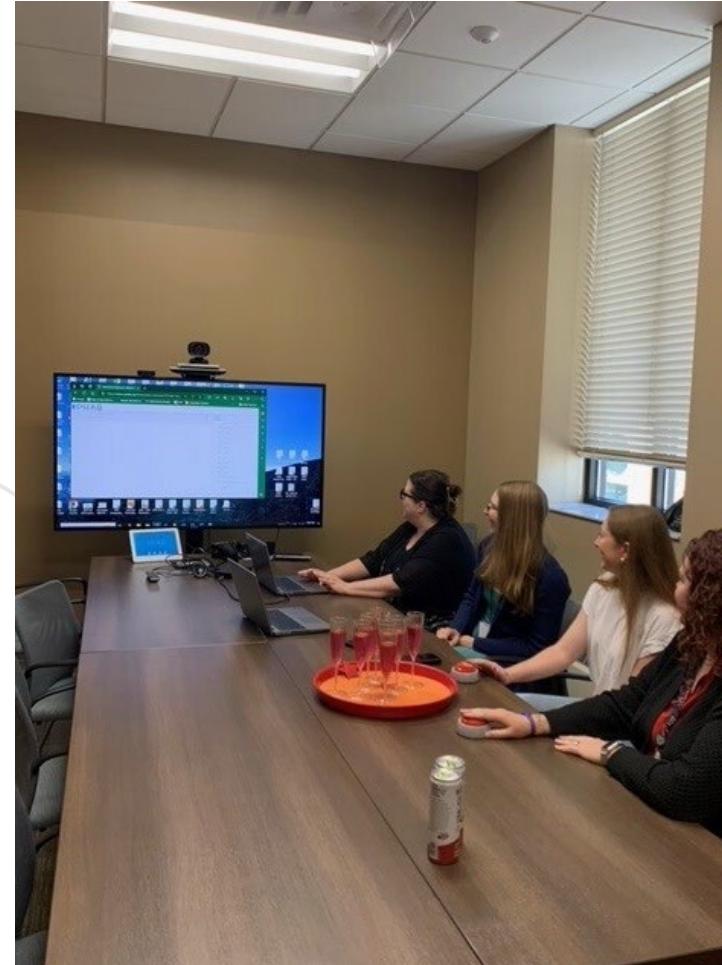
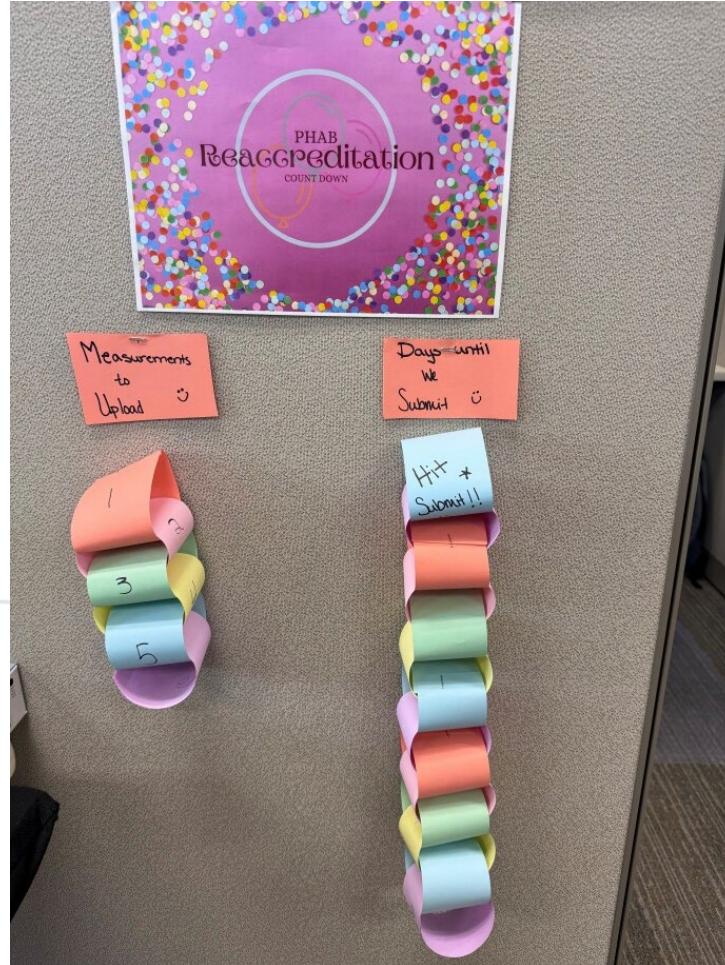
"Goodhue County Health and Human Services has made an



# Halfway There Party, Nov. 2023



# Reaccreditation Submit, Aug 2024

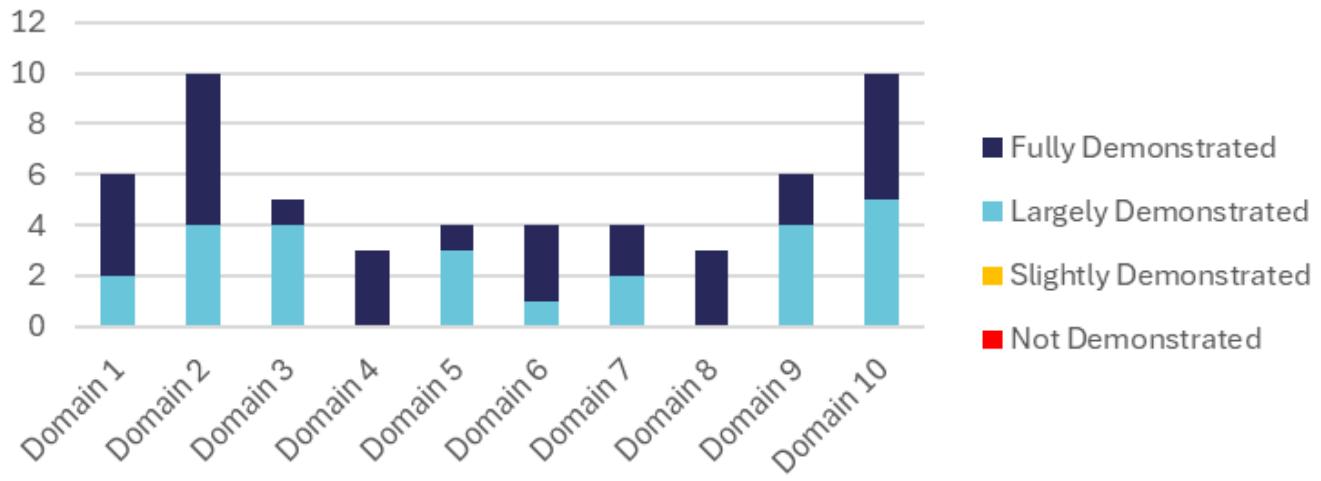


PHAB Application Tracking Interface:

- Header: PHAB, Home, Profile, Contacts, Applications (selected), Proc
- Section: Reaccreditation Process
- Filter: My Activities (selected), Milestones, Completed
- Milestones (List):
  - Application for Reaccreditation Open: COMPLETE on 03/27/2024
  - Application for Reaccreditation Approved: COMPLETE on 05/13/2024
  - Access to Documentation Submission: COMPLETE on 05/13/2024
  - Documentation Submission: COMPLETE on 08/13/2024

# Site Visit, October 2025

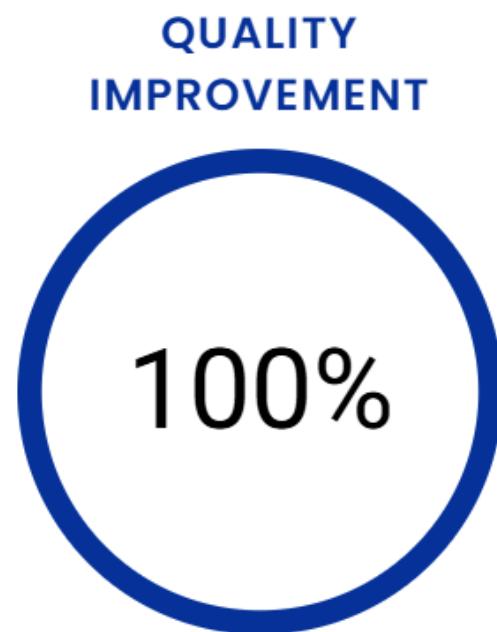
GCHHS **Fully Demonstrated** more than 50% of PHAB v. 2022 Reaccreditation Measures in our 2025 Site Visit Report, and **Largely Demonstrated** the rest!



- We were proud that we did not have any measures that required further action!

# Value

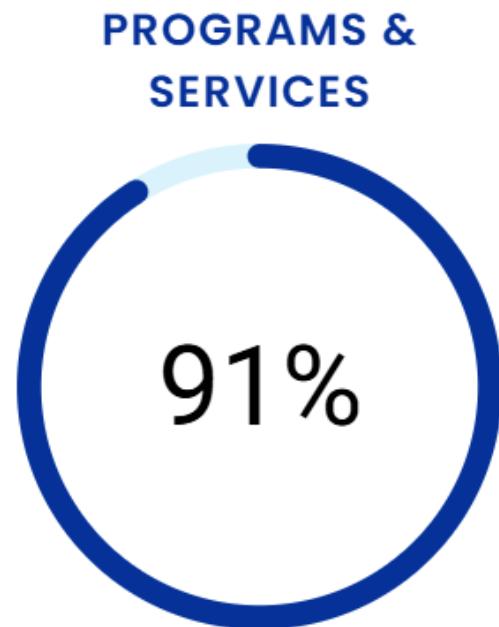
# Why do health departments appreciate PHAB Accreditation?



report stimulation of quality and performance improvement opportunities.\*



report improved ability to identify departmental strengths and weaknesses.\*



agree that Accreditation increased department's use of **evidence-based** practices for public health programs and/or business practices.\*

# Why Reaccreditation?

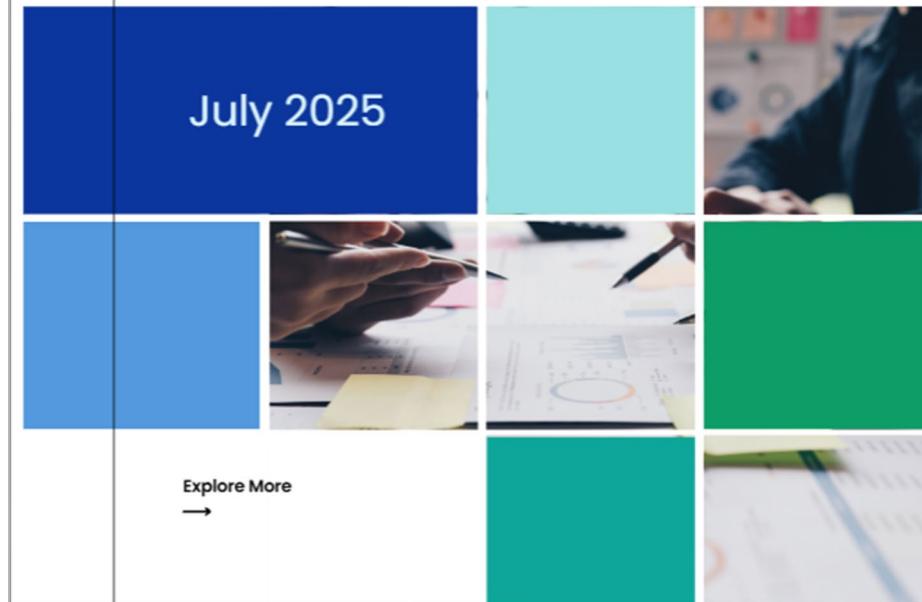
Click on [link](#) to  
read latest report

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Value & Impact  
of Public Health  
Accreditation

July 2025

Explore More  
→



# Accreditation and the COVID-19 pandemic

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- 2024 study showed communities with an accredited public health department had lower death rates from and higher full vaccination rates for COVID-19. Read abstract at this [link](#).
- 2025 qualitative study explored how Accreditation strengthened Emergency Preparedness. Watch webinar at this [link](#).

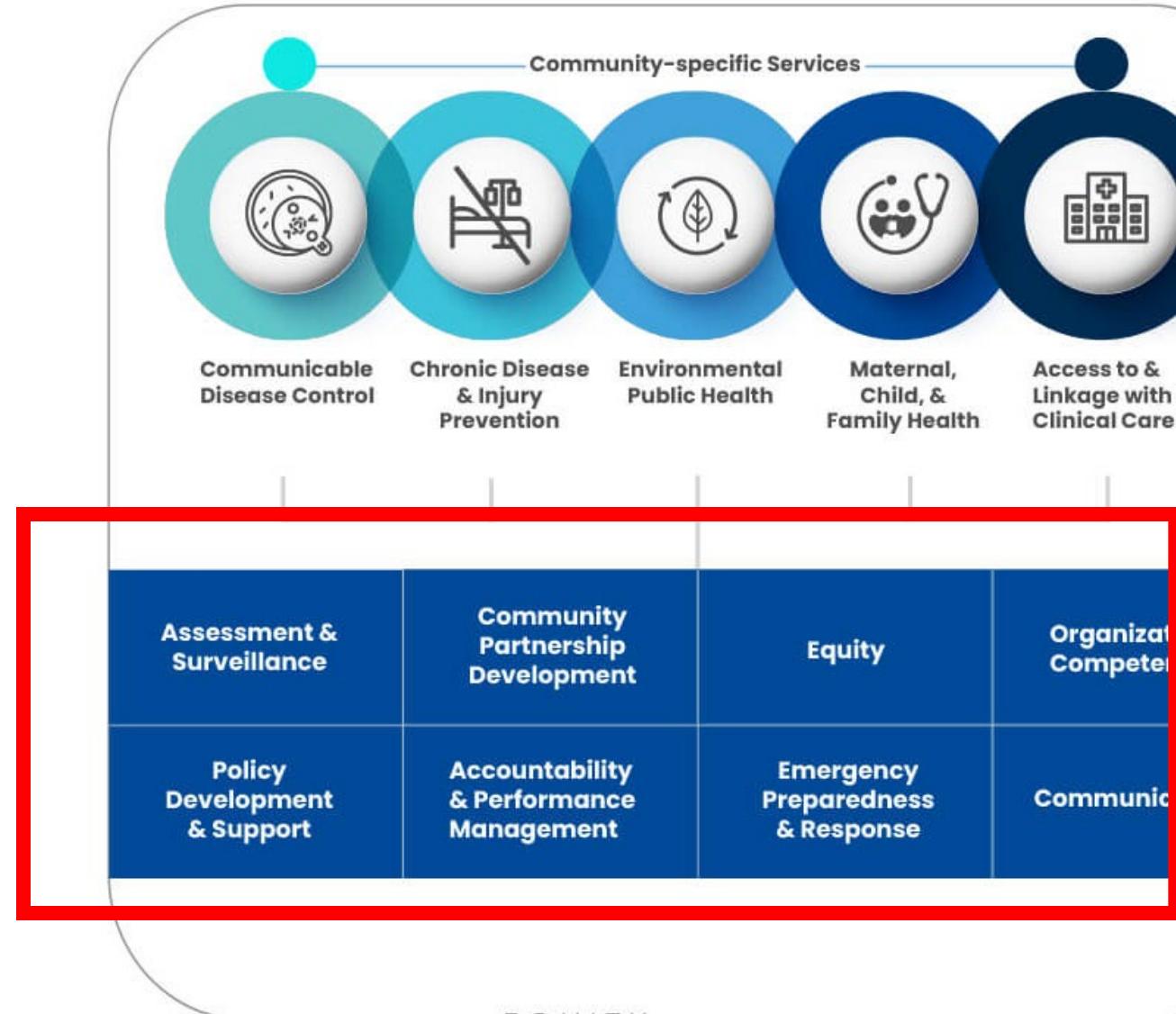


# Accreditation beyond Public Health

Examples of Goodhue County Health and Human Services using the **foundational capabilities** with

- County departments
- Regional projects
- Statewide activities

## Foundational Public Health Services



EQUITY

# Assessment & Surveillance

- **Region:** Community Health Needs Assessment Survey with Mower, Freeborn, and Mayo Clinic Health System

Assessment & Surveillance

Community  
Partnership  
Development

Equity

Organizational  
Competencies

Policy  
Development  
& Support

Accountability  
& Performance  
Management

Emergency  
Preparedness  
& Response

Communications



September 2024

Dear Southeastern Minnesota Resident:

This is your opportunity to help improve the health of your community!

Freeborn, Mower and Goodhue Counties, in partnership with Mayo Clinic Health System, are conducting the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Survey. Your household has been randomly selected to participate.

This survey helps us gather information to complete an in-depth assessment of our community's health and determine how to direct resources in the future. This information is used by many organizations including local counties and Mayo Clinic Health System to design programs to support community health and wellness.

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary. All answers to the questions are strictly confidential and no identifying information will be linked to any of the responses. We do track which surveys have been completed through the identifying number on each survey. This allows us to remove addresses from the mailing list for reminder notices once we receive the completed survey.

Only a limited number of randomly selected addresses are receiving this mailing. The study will be more successful if someone from your household completes the survey and mails it back. In order to get a mix of the population, please give the survey to the ADULT (age 18 or older) in your household who has most recently had a birthday. Please complete the enclosed survey form and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided or use the QR code at the top of this page to complete the survey online.

By completing this survey, your household will make a valuable contribution to improving the health of people living in your community. If you have any questions, please contact: Sue Yost – Freeborn County (507-377-5273), Josh Smith – Goodhue County (651-385-6150), Allison Scott – Mower County (507-444-5007), or Stephan Olson – Mayo Clinic (507-444-5007).

Thank you very much for your participation.

Sincerely,

Sue Yost  
Public Health Director  
Freeborn County  
Public Health

Nina Amesom  
Director  
Goodhue County  
Health and Human Services

Crystal Peterson  
Director  
Mower County  
Health and Human Services

Robert Albright Jr. D.O.  
Regional Vice President  
Mayo Clinic Health System  
Southeast Minnesota

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX  
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# Community Partnership Development

- **Region:** 10-county Southeast Adult Mental Health Initiative grant process

## 2026 Competitive Grant Process Overview

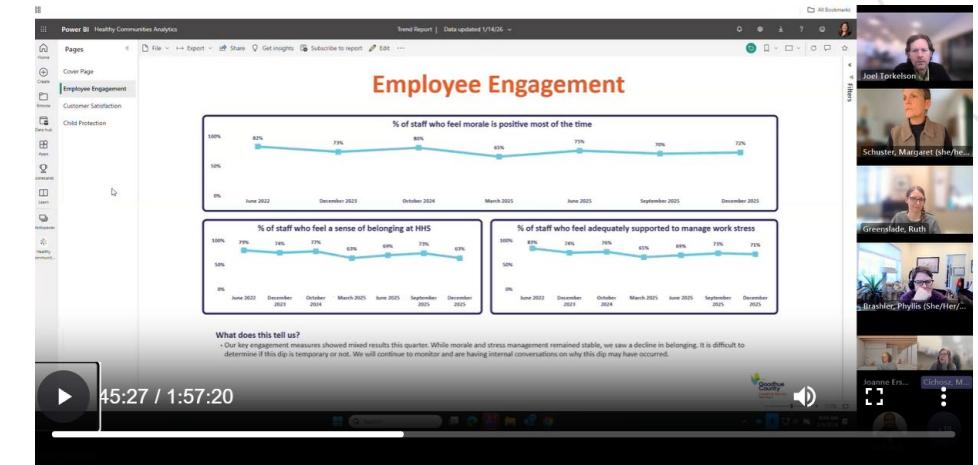
- \$390,000 available to increase mental health services region wide
- Promoted across the 10 County SE MN region
- 18 proposals considered; 11 recommended for funding
- Requests totaled over **\$577,000**



Assessment & Surveillance	Community Partnership Development	Equity	Organizational Competencies
Policy Development & Support	Accountability & Performance Management	Emergency Preparedness & Response	Communications

# Accountability & Performance Management

- **State:** Trend report presentation at Minnesota Accreditation Learning Community



MnALC Quarterly Meeting Recording.mp4

Posted by Amina A. • February 5, 2026 • 905 MB

Assessment & Surveillance

Community Partnership Development

Equity

Organizational Competencies

Policy Development & Support

Accountability & Performance Management

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Communications

# Organizational Competencies



## Goodhue County *Health and Human Services*

426 West Avenue  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
(651) 385-3200 • Fax (651) 267-4882

7-2025

### Goodhue County Health and Human Services Department Hiring Process

#### Checklist and Hire Letters for HHS

##### PREP WORK

**Analyze the position.** Are there other service models that should be considered? Are there problems or inefficiencies? Has the scope of the position changed? How does Goodhue County compare to our comparison counties?

**Review position description** for changes to essential functions, minimum qualifications, knowledge, skills and abilities required for the position. Review what background check criteria pertains to the position.

- If a position changes more than 20%, the updated job description needs to be sent to DDA for re-evaluation. If grade change is recommended, County Board will need to approve.

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**Surveillance**

**Partnership Development**

**Equity**

**Organizational Competencies**

**Policy Development & Support**

**Accountability & Performance Management**

**Emergency Preparedness & Response**

**Communications**

- **County HR:** adopted Hiring Process developed by GCHHS

# Emergency Preparedness & Response

**County EM:** drills with GCHHS staff at state Emergency Operations Center

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER



NEWS RELEASE [THIS IS A DRILL]

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

NEWS RELEASE # 24

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 02/02/2012 10:52

CONTACT: T 1-800-657-0000 F 651-201-7470

Assessment & Surveillance

Community Partnership Development

Equity

Organizational Competencies

Policy Development & Support

Accountability & Performance Management

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Communications

# Communications

- **County Outreach and Communications Specialist:** worked closely with HHS staff on county logo, branding, and communication plan

## Identity

### Department & Services Logo

In some instances, the kind of application may necessitate the use of a department & services logo.

These versions of logo should only be used for internal documents, business cards, and department-specific external communications.

Goodhue County has 14 department & services logos including:

- Administration
- County Attorney
- Court Services
- Facilities Maintenance
- Finance & Taxpayer Services
- Elections
- Health & Human Services
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Land Use Management
- Public Works
- Recorder's Office
- Survey/GIS
- Veterans Service



Assessment & Surveillance

Community Partnership Development

Equity

Organizational Competencies

Policy Development & Support

Accountability & Performance Management

Emergency Preparedness & Response

Communications

19 Goodhue County Brand Guidelines

# Importance of Reaccreditation

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**Continuous improvement**

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**National standards**

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**Provide the 10 Essential Services**

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**Provide Foundational Public Health Responsibilities**

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**Accountability for keeping plans and policies up to date**

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**Keep the Goodhue County community healthy and safe**



# THANK YOU!

[National Public Health Accreditation for Local and Tribal  
Public Health - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](http://state.mn.us)

