

Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI): QI Award Program

Eligibility, Timeframe, & Funding Policy *

* Indicates required

Review and respond to the following.

1. Eligibility *

- Applicant entities must be governmental public health departments (state, local, territorial, or Tribal)
- Organizations that assist governmental public health departments (public health institutes, state associations of county and city health officials, etc.) are also eligible to apply in the following instances:
 - the organization is serving as a fiscal sponsor for the health department
 - the organization is working with the health department on a joint QI project

Does the applicant organization meet the eligibility criteria?

- Yes
 No

2. Timeframe *

All QI Award Program recipients will receive a \$5,000 award and 15 hours of individualized QI technical assistance to implement a QI project over an eight-month period between April 1, 2012-November 30, 2012.

Are you able to implement a QI project within this timeframe?

- Yes
 No

3. Funding Policy *

Funds received under the QI Award Program may be used for project staff salaries, consultant fees, data collection and analysis, meetings, supplies, project-related travel, communications/marketing, and project supplies. Funds may not be used for lobbying activities; ongoing general operating expenses or existing deficits; items for which third-party reimbursement is available; endowments; or capital costs, including construction, renovation, or equipment.

I have read and accept the funding policy.

- Accept
 Do not accept

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Applicant Organization and Tax Verification *

* Indicates required

Provide the following information about the applicant organization. Include the formal legal name of the organization that, if approved, will receive the monetary award.

Organization *	Gila County Government
Address *	1400 East Ash St.
Address (line 2)	n/a
City *	Globe
State / Territory *	Arizona
Zip / Postal Code *	85501
Phone Number *	928-425-3231
Fax Number	928-425-0319
Website	gilacounty.gov

Tax Verification

1. Is the applicant organization tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or a state university, or a governmental entity? *

Yes No

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Applicant Information *

* Indicates required

- To save your partially completed page, scroll to the bottom of this page and select "Save, continue editing" or "Save, return home".
- To use the "Copy" feature" to copy completed organizational and address information to a new contact, choose a role from the drop-down menu and select the "Copy" button.

Primary Contact *

This is the person with the responsibility for carrying out the QI project. This person will be the primary recipient of all key correspondence: copy of award notice, post-award financial and monitoring and award closure.

Email *	<input type="text" value="jsartain@co.gila.az.us"/>	
Confirm Email *	<input type="text" value="jsartain@co.gila.az.us"/>	
Prefix	<input type="text" value="Ms."/>	
First Name *	<input type="text" value="Jendean"/>	
Middle Name	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
Last Name *	<input type="text" value="Sartain"/>	
Suffix	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
Degree *	<input type="text" value="AAS Nursing"/>	
Health Dept or Org Name *	<input type="text" value="Gila County Health Department"/>	
HD or Org Name (line 2)	<input type="text" value="Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Services"/>	
Size of population served? *	<input type="text" value="52,199"/>	
Address *	<input type="text" value="5515 So. Apache #400"/>	
Address (line 2)	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
City *	<input type="text" value="Globe"/>	
Country	<input type="text" value="United States"/>	
State / Province / Territory *	<input type="text" value="Arizona"/>	
Zip / Postal Code *	<input type="text" value="85501"/>	
Phone Number *	<input type="text" value="928-402-8802"/>	Extension <input type="text" value="8802"/>
Cell Phone	<input type="text"/>	
Fax	<input type="text" value="928-425-7714"/>	

Website URL

Authorized Official (Administrative Contact) *

This is the person who receives the subcontract for a project and whom the applicant organization has designated as being authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the organization. This person will receive a copy of the award notice.

Email *

Confirm Email *

Prefix

First Name *

Middle Name

Last Name *

Suffix

Degree *

Health Dept or Org Name *

HD or Org Name (line 2)

Address *

Address (line 2)

City *

Country

State / Province / Territory *

Zip / Postal Code *

Phone Number *

Extension

Cell Phone

Fax

Website URL

Highest Ranking Official *

This person is generally the highest ranking individual of the applicant organization (e.g., Director, CEO, president). The award notice is addressed to this person.

E-mail *

Confirm E-mail *

Prefix	Mr.	
First Name *	Michael	
Middle Name	n/a	
Last Name *	O'Driscoll	
Suffix	n/a	
Degree(s)	BS	
Health Dept or Org Name *	Gila County Health Department	
HD or Org Name (line 2)	Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Services	
Address *	5515 So. Apache #400	
Address (line 2)	n/a	
City *	Globe	
State / Territory *	Arizona	
Zip or Postal Code *	85501	
Office Phone Number *	928-402-8767	Extension 8767
Cell Phone Number		
Website URL	www.gilacounty.gov	

Organization Financial Officer *

This is the person who is the official financial contact for the applicant organization.

E-mail *	jheatherly@co.gila.az.us	
Confirm E-mail *	jheatherly@co.gila.az.us	
Prefix	Mr.	
First Name *	Joseph	
Middle Name	n/a	
Last Name *	Heatherly	
Suffix	n/a	
Degree(s)	BS, Business Administration	
Health Dept or Org Name *	Gila County Government	
HD or Org Name (line 2)	Gila County Government	

Address *	<input type="text" value="1400 East Ash St."/>	
Address (line 2)	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
City *	<input type="text" value="Globe"/>	
State / Territory *	<input type="text" value="Arizona"/>	
Zip or Postal Code *	<input type="text" value="85501"/>	
Office Phone Number *	<input type="text" value="928-425-3231"/>	Extension <input type="text" value="8743"/>
Cell Phone Number	<input type="text"/>	
Website URL	<input type="text" value="www.gilacounty.gov"/>	

Financial Contact *

This is the person with whom we can communicate regarding budgetary matters and who will submit the final invoice to the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI).

E-mail *	<input type="text" value="jheatherly@co.gila.az.us"/>	
Confirm E-mail *	<input type="text" value="jheatherly@co.gila.az.us"/>	
Prefix	<input type="text" value="Mr."/>	
First Name *	<input type="text" value="Joseph"/>	
Middle Name	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
Last Name *	<input type="text" value="Heatherly"/>	
Suffix	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
Degree(s)	<input type="text" value="BS, Business Administration"/>	
Health Dept or Org Name *	<input type="text" value="Gila County Government"/>	
HD or Org Name (line 2)	<input type="text" value="Gila County Government"/>	
Address *	<input type="text" value="1400 East Ash St."/>	
Address (line 2)	<input type="text" value="n/a"/>	
City *	<input type="text" value="Globe"/>	
State / Territory *	<input type="text" value="Arizona"/>	
Zip or Postal Code *	<input type="text" value="85501"/>	
Office Phone Number *	<input type="text" value="928-425-3231"/>	Extension <input type="text" value="8743"/>
Cell Phone Number	<input type="text"/>	

Website URL

www.gilacounty.gov

Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI): QI Award Program

QI Project Summary Information *

* Indicates required

Project Summary *

Briefly summarize the proposed QI project in no more than one paragraph or 2,000 characters, including spaces. This summary should address key components of your proposed QI project.

This project will address the issue of the lack of standard procedures for investigating and reporting of communicable diseases and proper training of staff who are frontline. We will introduce the Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) model for continuous improvement to standardize procedures for investigating and reporting of communicable diseases and properly train staff to identify risks and prevent increased morbidity and mortality by limiting the spread of diseases. Staff will be fully trained to ensure a collaborative effort, with clear and accurate communication, understanding of roles and responsibilities, and consistency in reporting to the CDC and State of Arizona.

*Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI):
QI Award Program*

Application I.D.: 10144

Applicant Organization Name: *Gila County Division of Health & Emergency Services*

Primary Contact Name: *Mr. Michael O'Driscoll, Director*

Proposal Narrative

The Gila County Health & Emergency Services Division (GCHESD) located in rural central Arizona focuses on population-level health serving a diverse population of 52,199 residents. A division wide reorganization in 2010 aligned all organizational units and staff positions with the essential services of public health and public health core competencies. The Division operates with three departments: Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and Emergency Management with one office of quality improvement. GCHESD's vision is to continually improve the health of its residents by utilizing nationally accepted quality assurance and improvement techniques to assist in accomplishing our vision by continually monitoring communicable diseases and providing trained staff to investigate outbreaks.

With the restructuring of the division in 2010, it became apparent to the new administration that the need to implement division wide standard procedures for investigating and reporting communicable diseases was imperative. With the resignation of the person previously, solely responsible for epidemiological investigations, a program review was conducted and it was ascertained that current practices and procedures were inconsistent and inadequate. Data was incomplete and investigatory protocols were outdated. It has become obvious, that our communicable disease program is in need of standardized procedures, and staff training and that the need to adopt and apply a Quality Improvement process to the program is an absolute necessity and will continue to be our priority.

Implementing standard procedures for communicable disease investigations and reporting is vitally important to the residents of Gila County, and it is our responsibility as the Local Health Department to execute these duties competently. The ultimate goal of the GCHESD is to identify risks and prevent excess mortality among the citizens by preventing and managing outbreaks of communicable diseases. Improved reporting of diseases is an important component of surveillance, prevention, and control and will assist our division in meeting the State of Arizona mandated reporting requirements.

It is important to address the issue of the lack of standardized procedures for identifying and reporting of communicable diseases due to the fact that currently there is very little baseline data available to the new Health Department Director due to the resignation of the person previously responsible for communicable disease investigations and reporting. No complaint data or investigation narratives were available and had apparently not been utilized, which indicated to the new Department Director, the need to implement a continuous quality improvement model to improve the processes and outcomes with our communicable disease investigation program.

The goal of our QI project is to introduce the Plan, Do, Check, Act (PDCA) model for continuous improvement, to standardize procedures for investigating and reporting of communicable diseases, and properly train frontline staff to identify risks and ultimately prevent increased morbidity and mortality by limiting the spread of diseases. By utilizing accepted QI protocols to implement standard investigation and reporting procedures, it is also our goal that this will promote continuous quality improvement activities not only in one department, but in the division as a whole.

Outcomes will be measured through a variety of methods. Data for training and education will include documenting and tracking of the number of staff in need of training, the number of staff who received training, and the number of staff demonstrating competencies. Continuous monitoring of the processes and the data retrieved for reporting purposes will be on-going and documented. Staff training exercises will also assist in ascertaining areas in which future improvement can be made.

The expected outcomes of our focus on these areas is an improved ability to respond to public health threats such as future influenza pandemics or food borne illness outbreaks. By November 30, 2012, we intend to demonstrate that GCHESD has established, and adopted, standard program procedures and that staff have been fully trained and demonstrated their capabilities in communicable disease response, investigations and reporting.

At the conclusion of this eight (8) month project, data gathered will be evaluated and measured to determine the level of project success and effectiveness and baseline data will be acquired for measuring future continuous quality improvement. By using accepted QI protocols to implement standard investigation and reporting procedures, it is also an expected outcome that this will promote continuous quality improvement activities throughout the division as a whole.

PROJECT PLAN:

1. Ensure staff participation and collaboration using the PDCA model, facilitated by our QI specialist to create a plan to improve investigating and reporting of communicable diseases.
2. Purchase necessary equipment, forms, and training materials etc. needed to implement the plan.
3. Provide staff training and education in preparedness and response with increased focus on tools and methods.
4. Implement data collection methods.
5. Monitor and document progress and efficacy.

All of our planning, trainings and exercises will be developed and implemented according to the CDC guidelines for investigating communicable diseases.

TEAM MEMBERS: Management Team: Michael O'Driscoll, Director Health & Emergency Services, JenDean Sartain, Deputy Director Health, Debra Williams, Deputy Director Emergency Management, Lorraine Dalrymple, Health Services Program Manager, Shane Stuler, Environmental Health Manager. All team members have extensive experience and expertise in their respective fields.

Field staff to be trained: Joe Kline, Environmental Health Specialist, Mike Lemon, Environmental Health Specialist, Lucinda Campbell, Public Health Nurse, Virginia Scales, Public Health Nurse, Julie Mercer, Public Health Nurse, Patricia Celaya, Public Health Nurse, Betty Vanta, Communicable Disease Specialist. All team members have extensive experience and expertise in their respective fields. QI Specialist: Judy Smith. All team members will participate in the PDCA process for continuous quality improvement, and all training and training components will be documented.

AIM STATEMENT: The AIM of the Division of Health & Emergency Services is to formulate, implement and standardize new and effective procedures to investigate, mitigate, and report communicable diseases and properly train staff in the procedures, by November 30, 2012. Staff will be fully trained to ensure a collaborative effort, with clear and accurate communication, understanding of roles and responsibilities, and consistency in reporting to CDC and the State of Arizona.

The PHAB standards this project will meet are: 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, and 5.1 of the Public Health Accreditation Board. By performing quality improvement activities our Health Department will be able to meet standard 9.2.

Gila County QI Experience: As a rural county, Gila County has very limited experience in QI. In September of 2011 a Quality Improvement plan was implemented using the decision making process (PDCA) identified by the Public Health Accreditation Board. If successful in this proposal our QI plan will expand to encompass our entire Department of Health, Prevention, and Emergency Management.

It is the expectation of the Division Director that Continuous Quality Improvement activities will continue to be introduced into all programs and will expand to include all departments within our division within a 12 month timeframe. We hope and anticipate that our proposal will result in a positive outcome.

TOMMIE MARTIN, District I
P.O. Box 2297, Payson AZ 85547

MICHAEL A. PASTOR, District II
1400 E Ash Street, Globe, AZ 85501

SHIRLEY DAWSON, District III
1400 E. Ash Street, Globe AZ 85501



DON E. McDANIEL JR.
County Manager

Michael O'Driscoll
Division Director

GILA COUNTY DIVISION of HEALTH and EMERGENCY SERVICES

5515 South Apache Ave, Suite 400, Globe, AZ 85501
PHONE: (928) 425-3231 ext.8803 FAX: (928) 425-3996

National Network of Public Health Institutes
Supported by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
QI Award Program

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Quality Improvement Grant being submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation by the Gila County Health & Emergency Services Department QI specialist.

This grant will allow us to pilot a QI project designed to improve our communicable disease investigation, reporting, and training program. As we move toward PHAB standards for local health departments, I am eager to launch this project in an effort to begin integrating those concepts and processes into our Public Health Department.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of our QI Specialist and Department of Health as they seek external funding to support a program designed to improve communicable disease investigations and reporting by utilizing national accreditation standards.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Driscoll, Director
Gila County Health & Emergency Services

"Improving the Quality of Life for all Residents"