



## PRESS RELEASE

### *Needham's Public Health Division Receives Grant Funding to Support Continuous Process Improvement and Accreditation Efforts*

NEEDHAM, MA – (December 21, 2017) The Town of Needham is pleased to announce that its Public Health Division was recently awarded a 2017-2018 Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

Now in its seventh year, ASI funding is a competitive, one-year financial award intended to stimulate quality improvement and promote the readiness of health departments to achieve voluntary national accreditation through the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#). This accreditation measures health department performance against a set of nationally recognized standards. The goal of voluntary national accreditation is to improve and protect the health of the public by advancing the quality and performance of public health departments.

“The Board of Health is very pleased that Needham Public Health Division has been awarded this grant,” said Dr. Stephen Epstein of the Needham Board of Health. “We look forward to the benefits of employing quality improvement methods as the Division works toward achieving the standards and measures required for accreditation.”

The Needham Public Health Division will be use its Accreditation Support Initiative award to assess its current status and the work required to achieve accreditation; to produce a plan toward that goal; and to train staff members on quality improvement concepts and processes.

“As a small health department, taking the time to apply for accreditation could be challenging for our already very active staff,” said Lynn Schoeff, program coordinator. “I’m thrilled to have the support from NACCHO and the opportunity to work with other health departments on this project.”

The Needham Public Health Division is one of 24 local health departments from 13 states to receive this funding through the Accreditation Support Initiative. More information can be found at [www.naccho.org/asi](http://www.naccho.org/asi).

Health departments that are accredited report that accreditation:

- 1) increases competitiveness for funding opportunities,
- 2) stimulates quality and performance improvement opportunities,
- 3) allows health departments to better identify their strengths and weaknesses,

- 4) improves management processes, and
- 5) stimulates greater accountability and transparency within the health department.

### **About the Needham Public Health Division**

The Public Health Division is a component of the Town's Health & Human Services Department. Its mission, since 1877, has been to prevent and control the spread of disease, to address environmental issues, to promote healthy lifestyles, and to protect the public health and social well-being of all residents, especially the most vulnerable.

### **About the National Association of County and City Health Officials**

NACCHO comprises nearly 3,000 local health departments across the United States. Together, we form an organization focused on being a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for change for local health departments around the nation.

### **Contact**

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