Join the Legal Epidemiology Learning Cohort!

Advance your health department or organization's ability to track and measure public health laws and policies

Please review the information about the Legal Epidemiology Learning Cohort, selection criteria, and frequently asked questions on the ChangeLab Solutions website before completing this interest form. The website will be updated with more information as needed, so please check back periodically. We encourage you to use this PDF version of the form to compose your answers in advance, then copy and paste your responses into the online form when you are ready to submit.

Please submit an interest form by December 1, 2022, to be considered for participation in the 2023–2024 learning cohort.

We will review interest forms on a rolling basis. For groups that are not selected to participate in the 2023–2024 learning cohort, we will keep their forms on file for potential consideration for future cohorts.

Please complete the questions on the form, and please stay within the word limits for each question when specified. If we have any follow-up questions, we will contact the person listed as the point of contact in question 1.

We tentatively plan to announce our selections in December 2022. The final timeline is subject to CDC funding approvals. In addition, dates may be adjusted, depending on participants' capacity and resource constraints due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have questions about the cohort or selection process, please contact us at phla@changelabsolutions.org.

General Information

1. Point of contact for the form
   - Name
   - Email address
   - Phone number
   - Title
   - Agency or organization
   - Mailing address
   - Agency or organization's website

2. How did you hear about the Legal Epidemiology Learning Cohort?
   - CDC's Public Health Law News
   - Email announcement from ChangeLab Solutions
   - Social media post
   - ChangeLab Solutions website
   - Conference presentation
   - Referral from a colleague
   - Other

Your Proposed Legal Epidemiology Project

3. Legal epidemiology is a tool for learning and communicating about the critical relationship between law and health. Now that you have had an opportunity to read about legal epidemiology and the learning cohort, please briefly explain why you are interested in this opportunity (250-word limit). Your response should address the following questions:
   - What interests you about legal epidemiology?
   - What goals can your health department or organization achieve by learning how to track and measure public health laws and policies?
   - How do you foresee using the knowledge and skills you will build through the learning cohort?

4. Please describe at least one topic or area of interest that your health department or organization proposes to research by using the tools of legal epidemiology during the 2023–2024 learning cohort (500-word limit). This could be a topic or issue that frequently comes up in your work, or something that you don't regularly work on but have committed resources to learn more about. Although you may propose multiple topics, we recommend listing no more than three. You will ultimately need to narrow your project to one topic once you join the learning cohort. Your response should address the following questions:
   - Why did you select this topic?
   - How does this topic connect to health equity?
   - How do you plan to use the information that you gather about this topic?
   - What laws or policies affect this topic or issue area (if known)?
   - What obstacles or challenges may arise when researching this topic, if any?

PHLP and/or ChangeLab Solutions staff would be happy to provide guidance on selecting a topic that is appropriate for legal epidemiology research. If you have any questions about how to answer question 4, please reach out to phla@changelabsolutions.org.

Your Project Team and Partners

The learning cohort curriculum is designed to enable any health department or organization to build its capacity to find, read, track, and analyze laws and policies to assess their health impacts. For more information on building a legal epidemiology project team and estimated time commitments for participants, please refer to the FAQ section on our website.

5. Please describe a high-level staffing plan for your proposed legal epidemiology project (250-word limit). We recognize that your staffing plan may change or may be subject to approvals from leadership; we do not expect you to have a final staffing plan at this point. To the extent possible, your response should address the following questions:

   • Whom do you hope to include on your project team? For each proposed team member, please list title, organizational affiliation, and expected hours available for this project.
   • What level of experience do individual team members have with legal research? If your proposed team members do not have legal research experience, whom can you include as a consultant (e.g., city, county, or agency counsel; law professor; legal intern from a local law school) to provide legal support and subject-matter expertise for the duration of your project?
   • What level of experience do individual team members have with quantitative and qualitative research? If your proposed team members do not have quantitative or qualitative research experience, whom can you include as a consultant (e.g., health department evaluator or data analyst; partner from a local university or research institution) to provide research support and subject-matter expertise for the duration of your project?
   • What community partners or subject-matter experts from outside agencies or organizations could potentially serve as consultants on your project? If applicable, please list roles and organizational affiliations for any potential community partners and subject-matter experts.

   PHLP and/or ChangeLab Solutions staff would be happy to provide guidance on building a transdisciplinary project team, including strategies to promote equity when selecting team members. If you have questions about whom to include on your project team or how to answer question 5, please reach out to phla@changelabsolutions.org.

6. Please describe any factors that might limit your organization's ability to participate fully in the learning cohort and complete legal epidemiology project deliverables (e.g., staffing levels; anticipated budgetary restrictions; upcoming projects or administrative tasks and deadlines, such as commitments related to accreditation or grant applications or renewals) (250-word limit).

Letter from Leadership

7. Please upload a letter from your organizational leadership in support of this project. The letter should be no more than 500 words and should address the following minimum selection criteria:

   - Demonstrated interest and commitment from staff and leaders to conduct a legal epidemiology project and provide feedback on trainings and other assistance aimed at building workforce capacity to use legal and policy tools to improve population health
   - Statement of the jurisdiction's commitment to provide its services and expertise for the duration of the project and accounting for any factors that might limit a jurisdiction's ability to fully participate in the project (e.g., staffing levels, anticipated budgetary restrictions, upcoming projects and deadlines)
   - Ability to engage with ChangeLab Solutions on a consultant basis, pursuant to a mutually agreed-upon services contract that complies with federal contracting requirements. The contract will outline participants' agreement to beta test all learning materials and provide feedback on all related trainings, tools, and resources, to inform the development of future products for other public health entities.
   - Ability to execute a timely services contract
   - Ability to travel for up to two in-person meetings, depending on COVID-19 travel restrictions and provided that additional funding is available for travel costs (airfare, lodging, meals, and incidentals)
   - Ability to participate in all mandatory trainings (approximately nine trainings over 10 months)
   - Ability to leverage technical assistance or other support from subject-matter experts as necessary to design and implement a legal epidemiology project

Additional Information

8. Optional: Is there anything else you'd like to share? (250-word limit)