

Division of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Workforce Development: MCH Navigator

MISSION / PURPOSE

The **MCH NAVIGATOR** is a portal to online competency-based learning and health transformation tools for maternal and child health professionals and students. The MCH Navigator includes a course catalog of over 400 highly vetted online learning opportunities, an interactive online self-assessment that matches learners to a personalized learning plan, and a series of microlearning programs that promote collaborative learning while making the process fast and easy.

At a time of increased and changing training needs, a shift in the age and public health knowledge of the workforce, and diminished state and local public health budgets, there is a critical need to connect maternal and child health (MCH) professionals and students to online learning resources that translate competency-based knowledge into action. To address these needs, training materials from Title V Special Projects of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS) investments, MCH graduate programs, and other continuing education (CE) materials need to be aggregated, vetted, and made accessible through an easy-to-use web portal. At the same time, customized, interactive professional development on emerging topics is needed to ensure that learners have the knowledge and skills they need to work across disciplines and systems to safeguard the health of women, children, and families. **The MCH Navigator addresses these needs by serving as a learning portal for MCH professionals, students, and others working to improve the health and well-being of women, children, and families.**

There are four ways to use the MCH Navigator to address learning needs, either individually or as a group:

SELF-DIRECTED

- Quick Finds provide options to access learning opportunities based on the MCH Leadership Competencies or the Core Public Health Competencies.
- Search Page with three easy ways to find information, including searching the MCH Competencies or Public Health Competencies.
- A-Z Trainings page with a listing of all learning opportunities in the course catalog and MCH Navigator products.
- New Trainings page with new learning opportunities each quarter, vetted by our advisory group.

SEMI-STRUCTURED

- Core MCH Training Bundles—trainings on key MCH and leadership topics such as MCH 101, Orientations, Conceptual Models, and the MCH Planning Cycle. You can also learn about topics such as Epidemiology, Management, and Leadership.
- Training Spotlights—in-depth portals to trainings on specific issues of importance to public health professionals.
- Training Briefs and Lists—short lists of learning opportunities on MCH topics including Family-Centered Care, Health Disparities and Lifecourse Theory.

SELF-REFLECTIVE

- Map your learning pathway using our online Self-Assessment that can be used individually or part of a group.
- Identify your strengths and learning needs.
- Match your learning needs to appropriate trainings.
- Receive a personalized learning plan.

FAST-INTERACTIVE

- Try the MCH Navigator's Microlearning programs.
- Our programs explore key competencies through short, ongoing bursts of learning that encourage learners to proceed at their own pace, all while being engaged in a collaborative environment.
- For each competency, the program presents a 5-minute introduction, five learning opportunities, five implementation strategies, and a 15-minute summary discussion with an expert from the field.

<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/training>

PROGRAM PROFILE

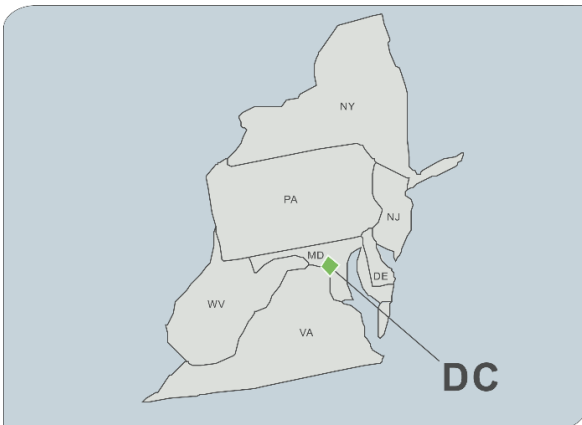
MCHB currently has a cooperative agreement with Georgetown University totaling \$180,000 per year. The next anticipated competition is FY 2021.

Program Impact

The impact of the MCH Navigator project can be measured in five areas (data as of November 2016):

- ▶ *Assessing and addressing the state of knowledge and skills in the MCH community*
 - *Over 1,500 professionals and students have taken the online self-assessment, yielding over 6,000 data records that indicate the current state of knowledge and skills across the 12 MCH Leadership Competencies*
- ▶ *Increasing knowledge and skills of the MCH workforce and students*
 - *In the course of a year, data show average increases across all competencies (on a 5-point scale): Knowledge increased 26%, from 3.3 to 4.6; Skill level increased 22%, from 3.1 to 4.2*
- ▶ *Providing access to high quality, relevant, accessible trainings*
 - *MCH Navigator staff search over 250 training sites, discussion lists, and news feeds to find the latest MCH and public health learning opportunities*
- ▶ *Alerting the workforce to new knowledge*
 - *The quarterly MCH Alert presents both a Focus on Training and a Focus on Learning, with one-third of the articles highlighting MCHB-funded trainings and resource; the Alert has a subscriber base of over 5,000 and a secondary reach of over 35,000*
- ▶ *Collaborating with state Title V, local public health staff, and key MCH organizations*
 - *Title V departments in numerous states, including California, Tennessee, Maryland, Vermont, Kansas, Washington, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wyoming, have developed training programs that utilize the MCH Navigator*
 - *Staff from over 20 state Title V/CYSHCN departments have served as reviewers of Navigator learning opportunities*
 - *Approximately 70% of the MCH subscriber base represent state and local public health*
 - *The MCH Navigator stretches its impact by collaborating with strategic partners in the field, including the National MCH Workforce Development Center*

PROGRAM LOCATION



District of Columbia
[Georgetown University](#)

PROGRAM CONTACT

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www.mchnavigator.org