

### INTRODUCTION

One of the core functions of public health is collaborating to achieve positive public health outcomes. It is through these efforts that we can collectively improve the health of our citizens. We believe that the power of state public health can be demonstrated through combining the efforts of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and its Affiliated Organizations. The Affiliate Council is a standing committee, recognized in ASTHO's bylaws, whose membership includes the presidents or executive directors of ASTHO and each Affiliated Organization, and serves as the forum for these organizations to work together.

This document describes the principles that ASTHO and the Affiliate Organizations will use to cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate on resource allocation, policy making and advocacy, national coordination, program support, and organizational development. These principles are intended to promote effective interaction and state public health development at the interfaces of national organizations and state public health agencies. For the purposes of this document, we define cooperation as sharing information and mutual support, coordination as working on common tasks and compatible goals, and collaboration as integrating strategies and identifying collective purpose. We see cooperation, coordination, and collaboration as a continuum.

ASTHO will serve as the convener of the Affiliate Council and provide support in pursuit of implementing these guiding principles. Beyond these two items, ASTHO plays a co-equal role to the Affiliated Organizations with regard to these guiding principles.

### RESOURCE ALLOCATION

1. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will continuously seek opportunities to secure adequate resources for state public health.
2. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will cooperate and coordinate to design strategies and plans for securing and allocating federal, state, and private sector public health resources.
3. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will cooperate and coordinate in seeking funding opportunities to assure that states are able to achieve public health outcomes.
4. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will actively seek opportunities to cooperate to build state public health capacity and expertise through the coordination of services and by cooperating on funding opportunities.

### POLICY MAKING AND ADVOCACY

1. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will develop policies that promote achieving maximum health outcomes by state health departments.
2. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will align policies to the maximum degree possible.
3. The development of strategies, policies, and priorities will include opportunities for mutual input.
4. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will conduct meetings to discuss and communicate opportunities or limits imposed by governmental or political entities.

### **NATIONAL COORDINATION**

1. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will work together to advocate for more state involvement and consideration in the development of national priorities, agendas, and other forms of policy affecting state health departments.
2. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will work with federal agencies to promote state participation in the development of national policies, which include program design, funding allocation strategies, regulations, and guidelines.
3. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will promote the value of member engagement in ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations to State Health Officials and state health agency employees.

### **PROGRAM SUPPORT**

1. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will develop programs and initiatives on cross-cutting public health issues that promote maximum health outcomes for state health departments (i.e., workforce development).
2. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will align programs and initiatives to the maximum degree possible.
3. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will regularly highlight the benefits, services, and accomplishments of ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations to their respective memberships and to state public health as a whole through communications, publications, and meetings.
4. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will articulate unmet needs, barriers, and challenges facing state-based public health agencies and specific public health programs they administer.
5. ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will share information regarding the technical assistance needs of specific programs and jurisdictions and actively collaborate to improve performance and address areas of concern.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

ASTHO and the Affiliated Organizations will regularly identify opportunities to share, assist, or combine organizational development efforts including:

- Governance and board development.
- Membership development and involvement.
- Resource development strategies.
- Office management.
- Conference and meetings management.
- Grant, contract, and cooperative agreement management.
- Education, training, and leadership development (for staff and members).
- Expanding public-private partnerships.



## ASTHO AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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### ***Approval History:***

*Affiliate Council Review and Approval on February 23, 2012.*

*Board Review and Approval on March 15, 2012*

*Expire on March 31, 2015*