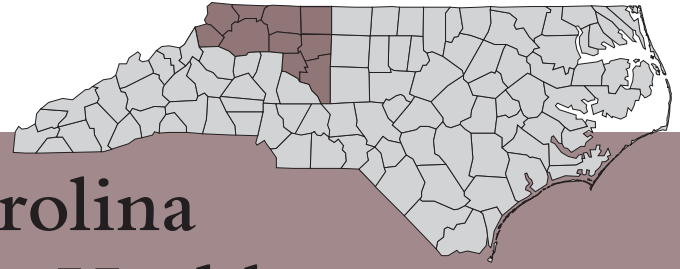


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Northwest North Carolina Partnership for Public Health

The Northwest North Carolina Partnership for Public Health (NWPPH) includes: Alleghany, Ashe, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin Counties

- 1 Best Billing Practices Model / Regional Medical Coder & Billing Compliance Coordinator
- 2 Workforce Development: Internship Opportunities
- 3 Best Practice Work Groups & Organizational Efficiency
- 4 Cultural Diversity & Health Disparities
- 5 Access to Primary Care

Vision of the Northwest Partnership

To be the foundation for regional solutions to the public health challenges in North Carolina's Northwest counties

Mission of the Northwest Partnership

To improve the public's health through a collaborative partnership using the combined experience, expertise and resources of the region's health departments

1 Best Billing Practices Model / Regional Medical Coder & Billing Compliance Coordinator

The Northwest Partnership will collaborate to develop an effective billing management model to maximize billing procedure efficiencies and increase health department expense recovery. For this two year initiative the Partnership will hire a regional medical coder to standardize a medical coding system and develop a best billing and compliance practices model based on the new system.

2 Workforce Development: Internship Opportunities for Recruitment and Retention of the Workforce

In the previous funding cycle, the Northwest Partnership assessed wages and benefits, training and education, and application of new practices among environmental health workers in the region. In completing this continuing initiative, the Partnership will evaluate and implement recommendations resulting from the assessment, including pilot testing a regional internship program. Outcomes will be shared with other partnerships to streamline and standardize the public health student internship curriculum.

3 Best Practice Work Groups & Organizational Efficiency

Due to the success of the Northwest Partnership's existing family practice work group model to address best practices in organizational efficiencies, the Partnership will replicate the model to assess both the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) and Maternity Care departments in each participating health department. Regional work groups will be established to meet regularly to assist with assessments and provide recommendations for improving organizational efficiencies in their respective departments. Recommendations will be shared statewide.

4 Cultural Diversity & Health Disparities

With the previous years' funding, the Northwest Partnership produced a social justice video to communicate three key messages: 1) health disparities exist across cultural economic groups, 2) equal access to health promotion and disease prevention should be available to everyone, and 3) responsibility for reducing health disparities belongs to everyone. The Partnership will use current funds to develop a facilitated discussion model to complement the video. Upon completion, a video premier event will be hosted by the Partnership to provide regional health department staff with training on video facilitation and materials for dissemination. The video and training template will be made available to all interested health departments.

5 Access to Primary Care

As initially proposed in 2005, the Northwest Partnership identified the need for more information to: 1) help define the need for primary care services, 2) assess currently available resources and models, and 3) define the role that public health plays in improving health care access. The Partnership aims to further promote the scope of services public health can provide to respond to unmet community health needs through in-kind resources to disseminate a policy paper, "Local Public Health's Role in Assuring Access to Health Care." This paper will provide health directors with convincing evidence to develop a regionally supported policy statement to increase access to care.