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## **PACIFIC PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTER** *California and Hawaii*

### **About the PHTC**

The Pacific Public Health Training Center (PPHTC) is a combined effort of the four California Schools of Public Health (**University of California Berkeley School of Public Health, Loma Linda University School of Public Health, San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health and University of California Los Angeles School of Public Health**) and the University of Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. The Center's goal is to develop and support public health training opportunities that are consistent with Healthy People 2010 objectives, particularly as they relate to the development and maintenance of a skilled public health workforce in California, Hawaii, and the U.S. Associated Pacific Islands. As these three areas encompass geographic regions with widely diverse populations, it is their mission to enhance individual and community health by collaborating with strategic partners to provide training that is innovative, effective, flexible in methodology, and readily accessible to our constituents.

The challenge of the PPHTC is to provide public health training that is sensitive to the variation and demands of these widely diverse areas. There have been increasing demands for public health workforce development, however no strategic plan to deliver it. The PPHTC has been the first to develop linkages and technical communication between the public health workforce in California, Hawaii, and the U.S. Associated Pacific Islands, and maintains this exchange through the sharing of resources and continued support from HHS and HRSA.

### **Impact of the PHTC**

- Public Health 101 is a popular course offered by the PPHTC and is available in both English and Spanish, which is critical in order to address the large Spanish-speaking population that the Center serves. Further, in California, many public health agencies use "promotoras" to do community outreach and health education in underserved communities. The "promotoras" generally come from the same communities they serve and often have extremely limited English ability themselves. Offering Public Health 101 in Spanish can have a direct impact on how these health workers do their jobs most effectively. In addition, offering Public Health 101 in Spanish serves an additional purpose by helping English-speaking public health workers who know some Spanish improve their Spanish-language skills by introducing them to the appropriate public health vocabulary in Spanish.
- This year, the PPHTC trained nearly 1,300 public health workers throughout California and Hawaii.
- Twenty-two face-to-face trainings focused on developing individual capacity for audiences varying from frontline public health employees to nurses and health officers. Training topics included Public Health 101, improving cultural competency, addressing health disparities such as obesity and translating epidemiological data into improved practices and policy.