

CITY OF VINELAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-405

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VINELAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE “GAINING GROUND” INITIATIVE SPONSORED BY THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS.

WHEREAS, *Gaining Ground* is a two-year initiative managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF); and

WHEREAS, *Gaining Ground* will develop sustainable, statewide support systems to support performance improvement in local, tribal and state health departments in seven states; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials has been awarded grant funding from the RWJ Foundation to support this project; and

WHEREAS, training and education will be provided to local health departments over a 20-month time frame which will include classroom sessions, webinars, and independent work assignments; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Vineland Health Department is desirous of participating in the *Gaining Ground* learning initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Vineland City Council/Board of Health does hereby confirm its support for the Vineland Health Department and its staff to participate in the *Gaining Ground* Initiative sponsored by the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials.

Adopted:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk



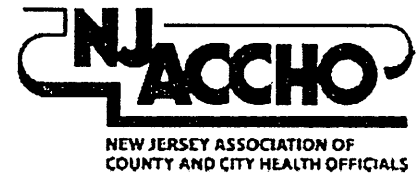
Memorandum

To: Denise Monaco, Assistant Business Administrator
From: Robert Dickinson, Health Officer
Date: September 29, 2014
Re: Gaining Ground Initiative

Attached please find the application for the Gaining Ground initiative managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes. This initiative is a valuable opportunity for the City of Vineland Health Department to participate in a 20-month effort which will train and educate health department staff in performance improvement. At the completion of the free training opportunities, the health department will also have a program of continuous quality improvement. This will enhance the impact of our department in protecting and improving health in our city.

In order for our department to participate in the Gaining Ground Initiative, the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials is requiring an assurance of full support by the City in the form of a Resolution acknowledging and supporting our participation in the program. I have attached a sample resolution which we are able to use. A copy of the resolution must be faxed to Colleen McKay Wharton at 732-235-9460 or sent to her email address at cmakaywharton@rutgers.edu no later than Oct. 30, 2014.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.



Gaining Ground

Gaining Ground is a two-year initiative, managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). *Gaining Ground* will develop sustainable, statewide systems to promote public health accreditation and support performance improvement in local, tribal and state health departments in seven states.

The overall goal of the new national accreditation program for state, territorial, local, and tribal health departments is to provide a catalyst for continuous quality improvement and in turn, improve the impact of health departments in protecting and improving health in their communities.

New Jersey's Effort

In New Jersey, our goal is to develop a sustainable process that advances local public health accreditation readiness, supports the accreditation of LHDs, and facilitates a culture of quality improvement among all public health disciplines. We hope to achieve this by providing multiple collaborative learning opportunities to LHDs. A 'hands on' approach will be taken, providing opportunities to *roll up our sleeves and get to work*.

The Planning Team

New Jersey's *Gaining Ground* initiative includes leadership from members of the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) – the grant recipient/administrator, the NJ Department of Health, and the Rutgers School of Public Health - Office of Public Health Practice. The program lead is Margy Jahn, Health Officer with the Freehold Health Department.

Program Activities

Training and education will be provided to LHDs that participate in one of two learning cohorts. *Cohort 1* includes those departments that have largely completed the three PHAB pre-requisites: a Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan and an agency Strategic Plan, and which have participated in quality improvement / accreditation – related trainings. These departments will begin work on performance management, completing a PHAB Self-Assessment, and collecting / developing required documentation. *Cohort 2* is for departments that have not yet completed the three pre-requisites, but have engaged in some aspects of that work. These agencies will participate in trainings relevant to completion of those documents, and will later begin the work addressing required accreditation documentation. Note that later in the grant period, a 3rd cohort will be formed to give those departments which are not yet ready to participate an opportunity to do so.

Program participation occurs over a 20-month time frame, and includes classroom sessions, webinars and independent work assignments. LHDs are asked to work collaboratively when possible, share resources and experiences with other health departments, and assist in mentoring departments who participate later in the grant period.

How Can My Department Participate?

Complete the online application at [here](#) by September 30th. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about this initiative at the September 18th NJACCHO meeting in Hackensack. Cohorts will be established and notified by October 3rd. We look forward to your participation!