



April 2026

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY AMBASSADORS 2025 IMPACT REPORT

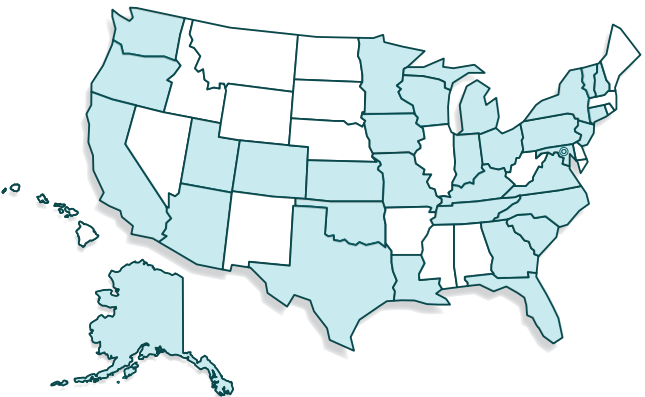
The Public Health Laboratory Ambassador initiative was developed by Cohort 16 of the Emerging Leader Program (ELP). Each year APHL selects a cohort of 12-15 laboratory professionals for a 12-month program of skill development workshops, networking opportunities, leadership exercises and project development. The Emerging Leader Program participants learn skills that prepare them for advancement into managerial and supervisory positions in public health laboratories.

This impact report covers the Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors program from December 1, 2024 to November 30, 2025.

Volunteer Report

As of November 30, 2025, there are 194 Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors in the program. 11 joined in December 2024 and 87 joined in 2025.

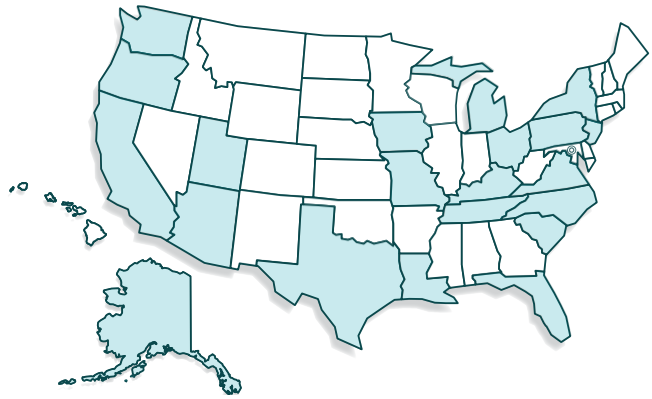
- Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors currently represent 32 US states, the District of Columbia and one US territory.
 - States included: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington
 - The District of Columbia is represented
 - Territory is the US Virgin Islands
- APHL piloted Ambassadors Connect in 2025, monthly virtual calls intended to allow Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors to connect with one another and discuss outreach and recruitment in a casual environment. 48 Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors attended in July, 30 attended in August, 35 attended in September and 32 attended in October. The program was paused for November and December and will resume in January 2026.
- Finally, three ambassadors collaborated to submit and present a poster at the APHL 2025 Annual Conference titled “Cultivating Engagement: Inspiring Students and Connecting Communities”. The contributing authors of this poster included Rachel Zinner (Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services), Esther Lee (Texas Department of State Health Services), Aubrey Galusha (Wadsworth Center, NYS DOH) and Hailey Reiss (APHL).



Event Report

- Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors planned or participated in 121 outreach or recruitment events, taking place in 22 different U.S. states.

- States included: Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- In Fall 2025, APHL began tracking audience and time spent planning and participating in events. Since this data began to be collected, Public Health Laboratory Ambassadors have reached an estimated 3,191 - 6,382 people to discuss public health laboratory science and their careers within the field.



Acknowledgements

Thank you to the ELP Cohort 16 members who developed the idea for this program. ELP Cohort 16 members included Maria Landron (APHL), Aubrey Galusha (New York State Department of Health), Marisa Barley (APHL), Cherry-Ann Dacosta-Carter (New York City Public Health Laboratory, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Christin Goodman (US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Heidi McBriarty (Connecticut Department of Public Health), Adolfo Lara (Houston Health Department), Lisa Mingle (New York State Department of Health), Cory Weaver (South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control), TaLesha Barnes (US Virgin Islands Department of Health - Territorial Public Health Laboratory), Rachel Zinner (Kentucky Division of Laboratory Services) and Jamie Yeadon-Fagbohun (Indiana Department of Health). After its development, the program was formally operationalized under the APHL Academic Partnerships program.