

Wake County Public Health Department NCLHDA Accreditation Honors Agenda Abstract

The Wake County Public Health Department officially received the North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation (NCLHDA) Board Adjudication on November 21st, 2025. Having achieved a perfect score – meeting 147 of 147 accreditation standards – the NCLHDA Board recognized the Department as accredited with honors. The NCLHDA program evaluates local health departments across the state on their ability to meet rigorous standards in governance, leadership, workforce development, community engagement and quality improvement. Accreditation with honors is the highest recognition possible, reserved for departments that demonstrate full compliance across every measure.

This accreditation cycle began in 2019 and work encompassed the expertise, compassion, and tireless contributions of staff through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

North Carolina was the first state in the country to mandate accreditation for its local health departments in 2005. The process of accreditation includes three major components – a self-assessment completed by the agency, a site visit by a multidisciplinary team of peers to review performance standards and a determination of accreditation status by an independent Accreditation Board comprised of state and local public health officials, Board of Health members, County Commissioners and at large members.

The NC Local Health Department Accreditation Program is administered by the North Carolina Institute for Public Health (part of the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) through collaboration with the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors.

The Public Health Department, as of February 2026, has moved into its new, 154,000-square-foot public health center designed to expand services and better meet the needs of the county. With excellence in its history and promised through its continually innovative approach, the Public Health Department is formally being recognized for its contributions to the county and the community as a whole.