Value of APHL Membership

APHL member laboratories have access to an extensive array of benefits and services to assist in carrying out their critical mission of protecting the public’s health. APHL—and the members who sustain it—are charting the future of the public health laboratory system at a time when laboratory services have never been so important to the nation’s health.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE
APHL actively supports our members during an emergency response, which has been significant throughout the coronavirus pandemic. APHL provides member laboratories regular briefings, guidance and assistance.

APHL advocacy efforts helped secure COVID-19 supplemental funding for public health laboratories, including for construction and renovation of facilities, data modernization efforts and equipment such as high throughput testing. Supplemental funding is also providing transformational investments to support the laboratory workforce.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
APHL provides opportunities to apply for direct funding for a range of projects, including quality systems projects, implementation of specific testing methodologies, software acquisition, support for regional consortia, equipment/service contracts, maintaining reference/support center analyses, evaluation of instruments and testing algorithms and more.

Direct funding to member laboratories totaled almost $18 million in 2020 and over $22 million in 2021.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Outbreaks and public health events demand timely information. APHL connects member laboratories to best practices and federal agencies in times of crisis, as well as provides assistance with day-to-day operations. Through these efforts, APHL fills a vital gap in the critically understaffed public health workforce by leveraging shared infrastructure, subject matter expertise and resources.

Members have access to a variety of technical assistance opportunities in areas such as project management, business analysis, terminology, technical architecture, system integration, database development, and informatics training. As of 2021, APHL has provided technical assistance to every member laboratory through the COVID-19 response as well as other data exchange initiatives like PHLIP, AR Lab Network and ETOR implementation.

In 2022, APHL’s Newborn Screening Program provided funds to 26 states to implement new disorders, perform continuous quality improvement (CQI) projects or to support improvements during the public health emergency.

WORKFORCE
APHL was awarded $282 million over five years to help strengthen the capacity of our nation’s public health laboratories. The Public Health Laboratory Workforce Pipeline Project will increase the number of qualified personnel by expanding training opportunities, building up the existing APHL-CDC Fellowship Program and launching a new internship program to enhance capacity of APHL member labs now and for the future.
RESOURCES

Members have 24/7 access to timely information and resources, including APHL survey data, guidance for federal grant applications, best practices and scientific guidance, through access to the Member Resource Center, the Public Health Laboratory System Database and Laboratory Profiles (laboratory directors and their delegates), eUpdate, Lab Matters and other valuable benefits. Additionally, member laboratories are connected to APHL’s robust public health laboratory network through CoLABorate, APHL’s online community.

CoLABorate is home to approximately 800 active users who’ve produced over 14,000 discussion posts since 2017. In 2021, CoLABorate users produced over 4,000 discussion posts for the second year in a row!

DISCOUNTS

Through APHL’s relationships with corporate partners, APHL provides members with a variety of public health pricing discounts for laboratory equipment, reagents, testing supplies, software and service contracts.

For example, one APHL corporate partner offers member laboratories a 42% discount on environmental testing software, including service contracts, and another APHL corporate partner offers member laboratories a 38% discount on LRN Mass Specs and equipment, including service contracts.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

APHL offers high-quality continuing education and workforce development programs, including technical conferences, webinars, hands-on workshops, seminars and online courses, to strengthen skills and promote excellence in laboratory practice. APHL’s Annual Conference is the only educational event in the nation dedicated to public health laboratory science. APHL also offers fellowship programs, opportunities for member laboratories to host a fellow, and a vibrant emerging leader program.

In 2021, APHL offered 200 professional development opportunities to member laboratories, with over 32,000 registered or attended. Over 230 total continuing education credit hours were offered.

TRAVEL SUPPORT

APHL offers member travel support opportunities for meetings, conferences, trainings, networking, advocacy events and representing APHL.

While travel was limited in 2021 due to safety restrictions, APHL spent over $800,000 in 2018 and nearly $1.5 million in 2019 traveling members both domestically and internationally for work.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & GOVERNANCE

APHL members have the opportunity to help govern and guide the association. This includes representing APHL on external workgroups, providing input on subject-specific taskforces, engaging in collaborative committee work, and strengthening laboratory capacity in developing countries. Laboratory institutional member representatives (laboratory directors) are eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

Over 500 laboratory members serve on committees, subcommittees, workgroups or taskforces.

QUESTIONS ABOUT APHL MEMBERSHIP OR BENEFITS?

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