

# Partnerships for Community Needs Assessment — Community Benefits & Health Department Accreditation

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#### The Hilltop Institute

- Nonpartisan, nonprofit health research organization
- Research, analysis, & evaluation to:
  - Advance the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations
  - Support community health improvement



## Hilltop's Hospital Community Benefit Program

- Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson and Kresge Foundations
- Resources for state and local policymakers seeking to ensure that nonprofit hospitals' community benefits are responsive to priority community health needs
  - Publications <a href="http://www.hilltopinstitute.org/hcbp.cfm">http://www.hilltopinstitute.org/hcbp.cfm</a>
  - Technical assistance



## What are hospital "community benefits?"

- Programs and activities to improve community health
- Provided by nonprofit hospitals to the communities they serve
- Justification for nonprofit hospitals' tax exemption



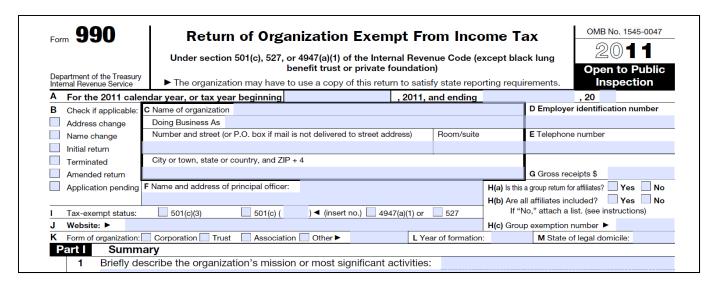
## What are hospital "community benefits?" continued

- Charity care/financial assistance, subsidized health services
- Research and health professions education
- Financial and in-kind donations for community benefit
- Activities to promote community health improvement (IRS Form 990, Schedule H)



### Affordable Care Act (ACA) Requirements – Nonprofit Hospitals

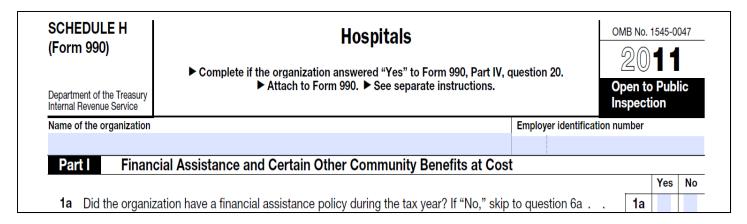
- Report hospital's expenses associated with providing community benefit
  - Form 990: All tax-exempt entities





## ACA Reporting Requirements for Nonprofit Hospitals

Schedule H: Tax-exempt hospitals report community benefit expenses by category (e.g., financial assistance, subsidized health services, community health improvement services, community benefit operations)





## ACA Requirements – Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)

- Conduct CHNA at least every 3 years
- CHNA takes into account input from persons who represent the broad interests of the community served, including those with special knowledge of or expertise in public health (ACA §9007, IRC §501(r)(3))



### ACA Requirements – CHNA continued

CHNA process must include: "State or local health...departments or agencies, with current data or other information relevant to the health needs of the community served by the hospital facility" (IRS Notice 2011-52)



### Local Health Department Accreditation

- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards and Measures 1.0
- Domain 1: "Conduct and disseminate assessments focused on population health status and public health issues facing the community"



## PHAB Accreditation Standards (Domain 1)

- 1.1 Participate in or conduct a collaborative process resulting in a comprehensive community health assessment
- 1.2 Collect and maintain data on community health status



## PHAB Accreditation Standards (Domain 1) continued

- 1.3 Analyze the data
- **1.4** Provide and use the analysis to develop recommendations on public health policy, processes, programs, or interventions



### **Partnerships**

- For successful community partnerships:
  - "A long term mutual commitment
  - A genuine desire of each partner to understand the other
  - Benefits to each partner that outweigh the costs of the partnership, and
  - Meaningful collaboration in defining agendas and action strategies"

(Institute of Medicine Committee on Public Health, 1996)



# Partnerships for Community Health Improvement

Hospitals, health departments, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders partner in collaborative needs assessment, public health/community benefit planning, implementation of community health improvement initiatives



## Partnerships for Community Health Improvement continued

- Community partnerships facilitate:
  - Diverse and complementary perspectives and expertise
  - Opportunities to leverage public with private resources
  - Alignment of hospital and health department community health improvement efforts (efficiency, non-duplication)
  - Combining constituencies for more robust community participation and input into needs assessment and planning processes



#### **Public Health Institutes' Role**

- Providing technical assistance to local health departments seeking accreditation positions public health institutes to:
  - Encourage/facilitate collaborative, comprehensive needs assessment processes
  - Assist in developing strategies and framework for efficient data collection and data sharing
  - Promote meaningful community engagement in needs assessment, prioritization of identified community health needs, and responsive health improvement planning



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