



## **DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST (DIS) CERTIFICATION PROJECT**

### **September 2015**

***This DIS Certification Project is being conducted to improve public health services provided to communities by DIS by offering a high quality, standardized approach to the professional development of this work force. This approach will help standardize and validate the knowledge, skills, and abilities of DIS; drive the standardization and improvement of training; increase the quality and consistency of service delivery and: increase recognition of the skills and abilities of DIS.***

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

A comprehensive, inclusive effort to develop recommendations to strengthen and formalize the role of Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) in areas such as STD, HIV, TB, Ebola and other communicable diseases; and emergency preparedness and response. This includes conducting a job task analysis to articulate the essential tasks, knowledge, skills and abilities of the DIS roles; enumerating the DIS workforce; establishing a national registry for DIS; developing three potential models for DIS certification; and informing a comprehensive framework for future DIS training.

### **ROLE OF THE DIS**

DIS work in health departments, community health centers, and other similar locations. The DIS role was initially established to work in the field of STD prevention. However, these public health professionals have ground-level investigative skills that have also become key components of tuberculosis outbreak response; HIV exposure notification; other infectious disease control efforts; and emergency response. DIS have expertise in essential skills such as communication, interviewing, counseling, case analysis, and provider and community engagement. As the health care landscape evolves, DIS are needed even more as patient navigators and network builders to ensure patients are linked to care through expanded relationships with health care providers. DIS are a critical part of the public health infrastructure and in building the link to health care.

### **KEY PROJECT PARTNERS**

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is the national coordinating body for the work that is being done in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSO), with support from national consultants in certification.

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