



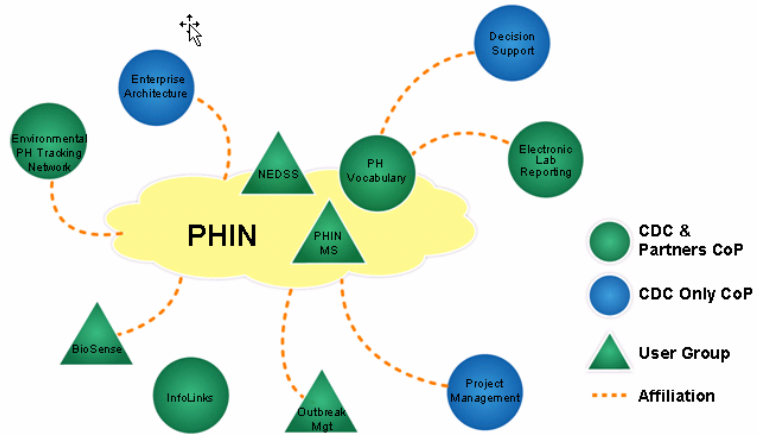
# **PHIN CoPs Resource Kit**

## **Aligning with PHIN**

# Aligning with PHIN

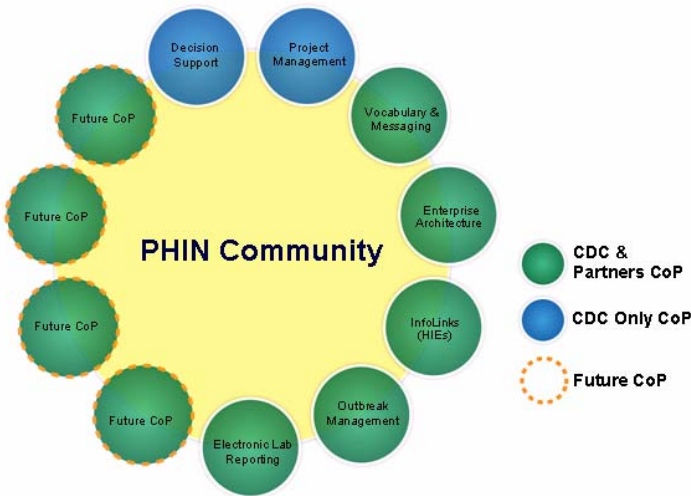
## Are You a CoP Member?

Are you currently part of an informal group, a user group, or an interest group working on technical and/or functional areas related to PHIN? If so, why not advance your group toward broader educational opportunities, innovation, and collaborative work? PHIN focuses on enhancing research and best practices related to efficient, effective, and interoperable public health information systems. To determine if your group is functioning as a Community of Practice, please refer to the Resources Section and take the ["You Might Be A CoP If..."](#) quiz.



The Current State of PHIN consists of disparate communities and user groups with few connections to each other or in support of PHIN.

The graphic above displays the current CDC and CDC / Partner CoPs and user groups. The goals, as displayed in the graphic below, are to support CoPs to align or more closely align with PHIN, to transition some existing user groups, key to PHIN, into CoPs, and to create new Cops needed to fill functional and technical gaps in PHIN.



The Future State of PHIN is an organized constellation of communities working in partnership to strengthen PHIN.

## Align Your CoP with PHIN

Participation in the PHIN Community fosters collaboration and dramatically expands the resources available to your CoP, encourages knowledge sharing, and fosters continued learning and personal growth. CoPs that join the PHIN Community benefit from advances in the development and use of standards, best practices, and technical innovations within their own CoP as they work within the PHIN framework to advance the mission of PHIN. Opportunities for participation include webinars, face-to-face meetings, and interactions with other PHIN Communities of Practice.

A PHIN CoP becomes successful within the PHIN Community by creating open relationships with other PHIN CoPs and contributing meaningfully in the areas of knowledge sharing, technical solutions, and best practices. Fundamental characteristics of an effectively aligned CoP include co-learning, participatory

relationships, joint processes by which all members have the opportunity to contribute equally, member empowerment, and collaborative systems development.<sup>5</sup>

There are multiple benefits a CoP can realize by aligning with PHIN. Some of the key benefits include

- Reduced duplication of effort and conflicting initiatives;

- Support to meet PHIN requirements and certification
- Access to best practices and lessons learned across the PHIN Community;
- Contact with Subject Matter Experts in related domains;
- Reduced time/cost to retrieve information and shorter learning curves; and,
- Expanded awareness of current public health informatics issues.

Once a Community chooses to align with PHIN, the new PHIN CoP will be responsible for

- Working within a functional/technical area key to PHIN;
- Working broadly across the domain to consider the development and use of multiple tools and processes;
- Focusing on issues and seek solutions that PHIN CoPC identifies as priorities;
- Welcoming individuals interested in joining the community;
- Evaluating progress of the CoP and participating in ongoing evaluation of the PHIN Community; and,
- Following governance principles (listed below).
  1. **Participation:** Direct involvement or through legitimate representatives in the CoP.
  2. **Transparency:** Decisions made and decision enforced in a manner that follows rules of community behavior; information is freely available and directly accessible to those who are affected by such decisions and decision enforcement.
  3. **Responsiveness:** Attempt to serve stakeholders within a reasonable timeframe.
  4. **Consensus Orientation:** Endeavor to attain unanimity or broad Community agreement on Community decisions and implementation of these decisions.
  5. **Equity and Inclusiveness:** Ensure members of the Community feel valued and included.
  6. **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Ensure Communities produce results that meet the needs of the community while making the best use of resources; sustain use of community resources and protect the community environment.
  7. **Accountability:** Maintain responsibility and remain answerable to all PHIN stakeholders.
  8. **Rules of Behavior:** Follow prescribed guidelines for conduct, and ensure actions are fair and enforced impartially.



If your Community of Practice would like to align with PHIN and join the PHIN Community, please send an email to the PHIN Communities of Practice Program at [phin@cdc.gov](mailto:phin@cdc.gov).

A PHIN Communities of Practice Governance document is in development by the PHIN CoPs Council. Upon finalization, the document can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/phin/communities>