

Florida



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

Implementation of the National CLAS Standards is incorporated in the Florida Department of Health's [Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2012–2015](#).¹ The plan provides goals, strategies, and objectives for five strategic issue areas: health protection, chronic disease prevention, community redevelopment and partnerships, access to care, and health finance and infrastructure. The goal of providing equal access to culturally and linguistically competent care is identified as an objective under the issue areas of community redevelopment and partnerships, and access to care. A strategy for achieving this goal is the development, implementation, and promotion of strategic plans that outline mechanisms to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, conduct self-assessments of CLAS, and ensure that individual client records include information on race, ethnicity, and spoken and written languages.

A series of four action steps elaborated on how the strategy would be implemented: (1) the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Families planned to identify or include objectives in agency strategic plans that address providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services by September 30, 2015; (2) the Department of Health planned to facilitate development of a self-assessment of CLAS that can be used across many provider settings by June 30, 2013; (3) the Department of Health and other social

services agencies planned to distribute and implement the CLAS self-assessment tool by June 30, 2014; and, (4) the Department of Health planned to facilitate a multi-agency assessment of how data systems collect information on race, ethnicity, and spoken and written languages, and would develop a plan that addresses gaps in information gathering and reporting, by June 30, 2013. The goal and objectives are reiterated in the Department of Health's [Agency Strategic Plan Implementation Plan 2012–2015](#).²

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The Florida Department of Health's HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis Program — working in conjunction with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Center on AIDS and Community Health at the Academy for Educational Development — offers [training](#)³ on community and group-level HIV prevention interventions to community-based service providers and state and local health departments. The program provides training on cultural competency and the National CLAS Standards. Training participants learn how culture can affect routes of HIV transmission, what facets of culture can influence communication related to AIDS care and services, how culture can impede as well as strengthen strategic communications, and the role of dynamic interactions in HIV education and risk reduction interventions.

Endnotes

- 1 Florida State Department of Health. (2012, April). *Florida State Health Improvement Plan 2012–2015*. Retrieved December 22, 2014, from Florida State Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/about-the-department-of-health/documents/state-health-improvement-plan.pdf>.
- 2 Florida State Department of Health. (2013, June). *Agency Strategic Plan Implementation Plan 2012–2015*. Retrieved December 22, 2014, from Florida State Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/about-the-department-of-health/documents/agency-strategic-plan-implementation-plan-ver1-2.pdf>.
- 3 Florida State Department of Health. (n.d.). *Training and Capacity Building*. Retrieved December 22, 2014, from Florida State Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/prevention/training-capacity-building.html>.