

New Jersey



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

The New Jersey Department of Health, in collaboration with more than 130 state, community, and private-sector agencies, created the [New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence](#)¹ in 2002. The network's mission is to strengthen culturally competent services in New Jersey for people with diverse needs, and to facilitate access to these services by individuals, families, providers, and other professionals. Specific goals include identification of human resources on specific cultures and services for people with diverse needs, and promotion of promising or best practices in culturally and linguistically competent service delivery. In 2004, the New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence met with the Department of Health's Office of Minority and Multicultural Health to discuss collaborative efforts, and in 2005 the network formalized its structure and launched its website, which includes resources on the National CLAS Standards.

Strategic planning in two disease and population-specific health care services areas has incorporated the National CLAS Standards. In the area of HIV/AIDS services, a Select Member Cultural Competency Task Force including Department of Health, university, and nonprofit representatives convened to adapt the National CLAS Standards for use in HIV/AIDS care. In 2003 the task force released the [New Jersey Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards for HIV/AIDS Services Implementation Guide](#),² which describes disease-specific standards, links them to the National CLAS Standards, and provides suggested implementation activities for providers.

In the area of children's health, Essex County's 2014 [Strategic Plan](#)³ for the New Jersey Project Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health integrates alignment with the enhanced National CLAS Standards as a strategy for many of

its goals. The action steps associated with the National CLAS Standards alignment include ensuring cultural competency training for providers, assessing communication and language assistance needs, and developing low-literacy and translated screening tools and questionnaires.

National CLAS Standards Training and Technical Assistance

The New Jersey Office of Minority and Multicultural Health has a CLAS Standards [self-assessment tool](#)⁴ on its website to help providers determine their compliance with the National CLAS Standards. The tool describes each of the National CLAS Standards, provides examples, and prompts organizations to consider whether they are compliant and how to improve compliance.

The Department of Health's Communicable Disease Service conducted 2-day workshops for professional medical interpreters, sponsored by the Refugee Health Program and the International Institute of New Jersey, that included information about cultural practices, cultural diversity and sensitivity, and the National CLAS Standards.⁵

National CLAS Standards Dissemination

The New Jersey Office of Minority and Multicultural Health released a condensed version of the National CLAS Standards Blueprint to help community partners understand and implement the enhanced National CLAS Standards. The office's 2014 report, [National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services \(CLAS\) in Health and Health Care: A Condensed Blueprint for Advancing and Sustaining CLAS Policy and Practice](#),⁶ is organized in a table format highlighting each standard, the purpose of the standard, and strategies for implementing it. The office's [home page](#)⁷ includes a link to the report.

The [website](#)⁸ of the New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence features a database of individuals and agencies with specific skills in working with diverse populations, links to national resources including the National CLAS Standards, and a brochure about the network's activities that includes information about the National CLAS Standards.

Endnotes

- 1 New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence website accessed January 12, 2015 at: <http://nj.gov/njsncc/index.shtml>.
- 2 New Jersey Department of Health, Division of AIDS Prevention and Control. (2003, June). *New Jersey Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services Standards for HIV/AIDS Services Implementation Guide*. Retrieved January 12, 2015 from New Jersey Department of Health: http://www.state.nj.us/health/aids/documents/njclas_implementation_guide.pdf.
- 3 New Jersey Department of Children and Families and Essex Pregnancy and Parenting Connections. (2014, April). *New Jersey Project LAUNCH Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health: Urban Essex County Strategic Plan*. Retrieved January 12, 2015 from New Jersey Department of Children and Families: <http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/providers/notices/NJ.DCF.Project.Launch-Urban.Essex.County.Strategic.Plan.pdf>.
- 4 New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health's National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Healthcare website accessed January 12, 2015 at: <http://www.nj.gov/health/omh/clas.shtml>.
- 5 New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Communicable Disease Service. (2006, October). *NJ Communi-CABLE*. Retrieved January 12, 2015 from New Jersey Department of Health: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/newsletter0610.pdf>;
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Communicable Disease Service. (2008, January). *NJ Communi-CABLE*. Retrieved January 12, 2015 from New Jersey Department of Health: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/newsletter0108.pdf>.
- 6 New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health. (2014.) *National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care: A Condensed Blueprint for Advancing and Sustaining CLAS Policy and Practice*. Retrieved January 12, 2015 from New Jersey Department of Health: http://nj.gov/health/omh/documents/clas_standards.pdf.
- 7 New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Minority and Multicultural Health homepage accessed January 12, 2015 at <http://nj.gov/health/omh/index.shtml>.
- 8 New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence website accessed January 12, 2015 at: <http://nj.gov/njsncc/index.shtml>.