



National Network *of*
Public Health Institutes

President & Chief Executive Officer

Leadership Profile

May 2026



WittKieffer

The Opportunity

The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) seeks a visionary and collaborative leader to serve as its next President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Following more than 13 years of successful leadership as NNPHI's inaugural full-time CEO, Dr. Vincent Lafronza will retire in December 2026 after guiding the organization through tremendous growth and impact. This is a rare opportunity to lead a highly respected, mission-driven national network at a pivotal moment for public health in the United States.

NNPHI is the national membership network for 52 local and state public health institutes (PHIs) nationwide. These nonprofit organizations operate at the local and state levels to strengthen public health systems and improve population health outcomes. Public health institutes are essential to the nation's public health systems. The incoming CEO will have a unique platform to shape public health infrastructure, policy, and collaboration nationwide, while supporting local innovation that improves lives and communities across the country.

NNPHI sits at the nexus of policy, local innovation, and national collaboration. NNPHI's program teams lead federally and privately funded public health initiatives in partnership with member institutes and aligned organizations that strengthen health systems and the public health workforce locally, statewide and across the nation.

With a presence in all 50 states and numerous territories, NNPHI's members represent more than 12,000 public health experts and over \$2.2 billion in annual funding in partnership with local and state public health systems.

Reporting to a highly engaged Board of Directors, the CEO is responsible for NNPHI's strategy, operations, financial sustainability, and national visibility and influence. As the face and voice of the organization, the CEO will guide NNPHI and its members through a rapidly evolving public health and funding landscape, championing the value of public health institutes, strengthening the network, and positioning NNPHI for even greater long-term impact. The CEO oversees more than 50 staff across offices in New Orleans and Washington, D.C.

The ideal candidate will be a collaborative, entrepreneurial, strategic, and values-driven leader with:

- Deep understanding of the public health ecosystem and the unique role of public health institutes
- Significant senior executive leadership experience in complex, mission-driven organizations
- Proven success securing federal funding, grants, contracts, philanthropic support, and new business opportunities
- Strong financial acumen and experience guiding organizations through funding transitions
- Exceptional relationship-building, diplomacy, and communication skills
- Experience advocating at the national level with federal agencies, policymakers, and major partners
- Experience building and leading high-performing leadership teams
- Commitment to health equity
- A leadership style grounded in humility, accessibility, and shared purpose

A graduate degree in public health, healthcare administration or management, business administration, or a related field is required. Federal government relations experience and established relationships with national public health leaders are strongly preferred. NNPHI has offices in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. and operates in a hybrid work environment. The CEO is expected to maintain a visible presence among staff and partners.

Position Summary

Reporting Relationships

The President and Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board of Directors.

Reporting to the CEO are the Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration and the Senior Vice President of Programs. The Executive Leadership Team also includes the Vice President of Technology, Strategy, and Innovation, as well as the Managing Director of Programs and Special Projects.

Responsibilities

The CEO is responsible for all functions of NNPHI and works with the Board of Directors and senior leadership to establish innovative strategies and ensure the organization's effective operations and sustainability. The CEO recommends and participates in the board's development of new policies, procedures, and programs and leads a high-functioning, accountable team in pursuit of NNPHI's mission. As the face and voice of the organization, the CEO communicates goals, initiatives, and accomplishments to a broad range of partners and constituents nationally. The CEO ensures that member public health institutes remain a vital resource to the nation's communities, policymakers, and the public.

Specifically, the CEO:

- Engages the Board of Directors, members, staff, and partners to develop and enact NNPHI's strategic plan.
- Provides strategic direction to meet fiscal, operational, and mission-based objectives to ensure impact and organizational viability.
- Provides leadership, guidance, and support to the Board of Directors and serves as a voting member of the board.
- Seeks opportunities for the development of new institutes and cooperative programs and the enhancement of network member capacities through collaboration.
- Works to identify new sources of funding for NNPHI and network members.
- Develops national relationships and partnerships to cultivate a broad network and enhances NNPHI's visibility to advance its mission and vision.
- Leads the NNPHI team to balance current responsibilities while leading the development of innovative strategies for network members and NNPHI's long-term positioning and influence. Provides appropriate oversight of NNPHI's projects and initiatives to ensure efficiency, compliance, quality, and client satisfaction.
- Mentors and empowers NNPHI employees with an emphasis on teamwork, mutual accountability, and client satisfaction.
- Acts as a subject matter expert, connector, and spokesperson for the network.
- Engages in appropriate advocacy on behalf of public health institutes to educate and inform national and local policy makers, community leaders, and partnered organizations.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for the next CEO:

- **Articulate and advance an integrative vision and strategic plan for NNPHI's future**

The CEO will have the opportunity to work with the NNPHI board, staff, and partners to develop a shared vision and new strategic directions and plan for the organization. The appointment of a new CEO amid significant changes to the federal public health landscape creates an opportunity for NNPHI to reflect on its direction and gather input from partners, funders, members, and other stakeholders to enhance the reach, influence, and impact of the network and its member institutes.

- **Enhance advocacy for the network and the vital role of public health institutes**

As the national voice for public health institutes, NNPHI has the opportunity to further educate and inform policymakers at the national and local levels of the unique value and impact of public health institutes in improving the public's health. The CEO will work to expand the network's advocacy footprint while continuing to monitor how policy changes will impact members. NNPHI will also continue to align with partners and organizations with similar advocacy goals to ensure public health institutes are at the table for relevant policy discussions.

- **Enhance network services, collaborations, and shared practices**

With 52 members and growing, there are additional opportunities to leverage the network's collective capacity, buying power, and learned best practices. NNPHI can explore offering supply chain and sourcing contracting, assisting smaller institutes with technology and systems, further connecting institutes to augment staff and capacity for programs, and establishing additional interest groups around common priorities. The CEO will ensure the value proposition is clear for the network's diverse member institutes.

- **Diversify revenue streams**

Currently, the majority of NNPHI's budget is reliant on federal sources, primarily CDC funding. While there remain significant opportunities for NNPHI to identify, obtain, and collaborate on federally funded grants and contracts for the network, shifting national priorities will require NNPHI to diversify its funding base. The CEO must work with NNPHI members and other stakeholders to stay abreast of federal priorities, align with national foundation, philanthropic, and aligned industry goals, and be an even greater resource for member institutes.

- **Enhance cross-state collaboration and support**

Public health challenges transcend borders, and NNPHI has a unique vantage point. The CEO will foster interstate learning and collaboration and support institutes operating in complex local environments. Regional coalitions may continue to form in the current landscape, creating opportunities to go beyond the current regional hub model.

Candidate Qualifications

NNPHI seeks in its next CEO an experienced and highly collaborative leader with a successful record of coalition-building, effecting positive change, and making an impact. The CEO must be visionary, entrepreneurial, and committed to championing NNPHI's mission.

The CEO is expected to possess a deep understanding of and substantive experience within the public health ecosystem, including public health institutes, agencies, healthcare providers, community organizations, and not-for-profit institutions. Importantly, NNPHI's next leader must understand the contextual opportunities and challenges facing public health institutes.

NNPHI requires a strategic chief executive with financial sophistication, exceptional communication skills, and the capacity to engage federal agencies, foundations, partners, not-for-profits and policymakers to elevate the network's visibility and signal NNPHI's nationwide reach and capabilities. The CEO must advocate in a non-partisan manner, maintain a visible presence and robust national engagement, and effectively steward strategic relationships locally, statewide, in Washington, D.C. and across the nation.

Education/Certification

- Graduate degree in public health, health care administration or management, business administration or a related field.

Specific Knowledge and Work Experience

- Progressive senior executive experience gained in a similarly complex organization focused on improving public health and health policy.
- Demonstrated track record of building strategies to secure extramural funding, grants and contracts, new lines of business, and/or philanthropic funds.
- Proven history of developing networks of partners, policymakers, community and philanthropic leaders to advance an organization's mission; established relationships with leading national public health figures and organizations is ideal.
- Solid operational management background with strong fiscal acumen.
- Experience attracting, developing, and mentoring strong leadership teams.
- Experience working strategically with a volunteer board of directors.
- Experience building a strategy to advance a policy agenda and working with federal agencies, legislators, and policymakers to advance public health priorities.
- Experience leading a geographically dispersed staff.

About NNPHI

A national consensus is growing that the health of people living in the United States is suffering. With America's healthcare systems overburdened, public health has a major role to play in addressing this challenge. The National Network of Public Health Institutes aims to meet this moment by growing and strengthening the health systems and public health workforce that communities rely on across the country.

Established in 2001, NNPHI is a 501(c)(3) organization leading national public health infrastructure, training, and workforce development programs. The network has grown rapidly in the last 20 years to **52 public health institutes**—nonprofit organizations that increase the capacity of state and local communities to improve public health. The network is a key part of the national workforce, serving cities, states, territories, and tribal populations around the country.

NNPHI's national connectivity and local reach is unique in the public health landscape. As a trusted national partner, NNPHI's public health program leaders are building and implementing major public health models and initiatives in collaboration with government and foundation partners. NNPHI's public health institutes are innovating in local and statewide contexts, crafting successful public health approaches that meet the specific needs of populations.

NNPHI is governed by an active 12-member **Board of Directors** comprising member institute CEOs, presidents, and executive directors. The board provides strategic guidance for NNPHI and its role in leading the network of public health institutes across the country. With offices in New Orleans and Washington D.C., NNPHI has 57 employees, most of whom work in hybrid or remote environments.



Mission & Vision

NNPHI supports national public health system initiatives and strengthens public health institutes to promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. NNPHI envisions innovation-fostering public health institutes across the nation collaborating to improve population health.

National & Local Engagement

NNPHI provides leadership nationally and locally through a range of activities and services, including the following:

- Technical assistance and training for the public health workforce
- Evaluation of public health programs and initiatives
- Program management and implementation
- Program replication and scaling
- Planning and leading convenings of public health stakeholders
- Organizational capacity building
- Connecting disparate partners (government, academia, healthcare, community-based organizations)



Program & Projects

NNPHI's program teams are leading federally and privately funded public health initiatives that strengthen health systems and the workforce locally, statewide, and nationally. NNPHI staff have extensive experience working for local and state health departments, academic health centers, and federal organizations like the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Commercial Tobacco Control

The National Conference on Tobacco or Health (NCTOH) is one of the largest, long-standing gatherings for top United States tobacco control professionals. The convening attracts a diversity of public health professionals committed to best practices and policies to reduce tobacco use—the leading preventable cause of disease and death in the United States. NNPHI works alongside a steering committee of agencies, foundations, practice organizations, and program committees to leverage its extensive convening expertise and widespread network of public health institutes, training centers, and dozens of key stakeholders to enhance both programmatic content and overall experience.

Convenings and Events Management

NNPHI's Convenings team is a cornerstone of its mission-driven approach to advancing public health. From national conferences to intimate gatherings and virtual webinars, the team creates purposeful spaces where public health professionals and partners can align around policy, systems, and environmental change. Backed by a network of more than 12,000 subject matter experts, the team delivers high-impact programming and events that cultivate collaboration, accelerate innovation, and drive improvements in population health.

Data Modernization

NNPHI leads national efforts and facilitates local collaborations to advance data modernization across public health systems. The network helps public health agencies strengthen how they collect, use, and share data so they can make informed decisions that improve community health. NNPHI provides training to new and experienced public health professionals to build leadership and project management capacity for data modernization; collaborate with technologists to build or enhance public health data systems; and supports Tribes' public health data modernization, enabling them to better collect and use data to improve the health of their communities, in partnership with Tribal-serving organizations.

Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness

NNPHI's Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness (EHEP) team works with public health institutes, health departments, and other partners to provide technical assistance and training focused on increasing communities' readiness and resilience to environmental health impacts and extreme weather disasters. The EHEP team brings national scale to localized environmental health and extreme weather efforts, while NNPHI's member public health institutes offer expertise and connections at the local and statewide level.

Evaluation and Impact

NNPHI's Evaluation and Impact team works with federal and foundation partners, member public health institutes, and NNPHI project teams to determine how well a public health initiative, program, or service is working and can be improved. From identifying needs and solutions to quantifying impact, findings help partners make data-informed decisions to improve public health. The team's approach is informed by utilization-focused evaluation and community based participatory research (CBPR) methods and practices. Innovative and practical data collection strategies ensure that evaluation is timely, efficient, minimizes respondent burden, and gives voice to those served by the health services being assessed.

Public Health Infrastructure Grant

The Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) is a groundbreaking, multi-billion-dollar investment from the CDC to help health departments across the U.S. strengthen their workforce and infrastructure. Awarded to 107 state, local, territorial, and freely associated state health departments, funding is being distributed over a five-year period from 2022 to 2027. NNPHI is one of three national partners that support health departments in their PHIG-funded work. Together with the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) and the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), NNPHI collaborates with health agencies in their efforts to modernize data systems, recruit and retain a skilled public health workforce and address longstanding public health infrastructure needs.

Public Health Workforce Development and Training

The National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training (NCCPHT) designs, delivers and scales evidence-informed training and capacity-building initiatives that improves the nation’s current and future public health workforce. With deep expertise in public health systems and infrastructure, NCCPHT leads efforts that promote health equity, advance performance improvement, and enhance cross-sector collaboration through high-quality training, positioning NCCPHT as a responsive and reliable anchor in the evolving public health landscape.





Public Health Institutes

NNPHI's member public health institutes are nonprofit organizations that increase the capacity of their state and local communities to improve public health and health policy. A public health institute's mission is to advance public health, serving as strategic conveners and providing timely administrative and operational support in collaboration with government agencies and other strategic partners such as hospitals, universities, community-based organizations and businesses. They are public health innovators and capacity extenders, providing nimble administrative and operational support in collaboration with government agencies.

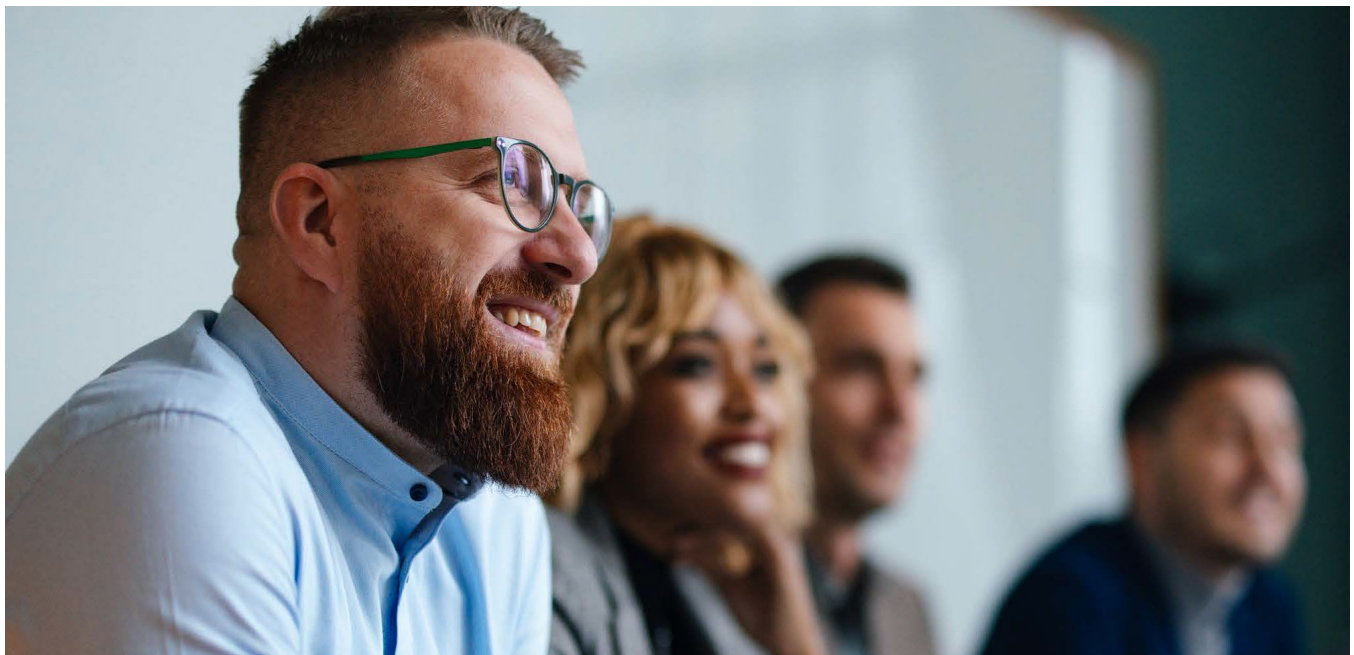
Institutes foster community-driven partnerships that support efforts to create a more stable, robust public health infrastructure that addresses health and social needs in the context of community, with a focus on health equity and accountability. They **complement public health systems** by strengthening the public health infrastructure, attracting and distributing resources that help fund, educate, and support efforts to expand health opportunities.

Public health institutes are especially critical in public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic. They provided rapid data collection, analysis, and management support; rapid hiring and deployment of skilled public health workers, coordination among public health, healthcare, and community agencies; and communications capacity, among many other urgent supports.

Institutes have deep local relationships with their partners. Their boards comprise representatives of partners and people in the communities they serve. Institutes regrant local partner organizations, often with small community organizations, to partner on public health programs. They invest in local staff and attract individuals with subject matter expertise and lived experience.

NNPHI's member public health institutes are as follows:

- Alabama Public Health Institute
- American Indian Public Health Resource Center (ND)
- Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
- Center for Health Equity and Wellbeing (NJ)
- Center for Health Innovation (NM)
- Center for Mississippi Health Policy
- Center for Native American Health (NM)
- Colorado Health Institute
- Delaware Public Health Institute
- Fund for Public Health NYC (NY)
- Georgia Health Policy Center
- Hawai'i Public Health Institute
- Health Affairs Institute (WV)
- Health Policy Institute of Ohio
- Health Research Incorporated (NY)
- Health Resources in Action (MA)
- Healthy Hoosiers Foundation (IN)
- Illinois Public Health Institute
- Indiana Family Health Council
- Institute for Public Health Innovation (MD/VA/DC)
- Institute for Public Health Practice, Research and Policy, University of Iowa
- Kansas Health Institute
- Louisiana Public Health Institute
- Maine Public Health Institute
- MCD Global Health (ME)
- Michigan Public Health Institute
- Mississippi Public Health Institute
- Missouri Public Health Institute
- Montana Public Health Institute
- Nevada Public Health Foundation
- Nevada Public Health Institute
- New Hampshire Community Health Institute
- North Carolina Institute for Public Health
- Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (WA)
- Ohio Public Health Institute
- Oregon Public Health Institute
- Public Health Institute (CA)
- Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago (IL)
- Public Health Institute of Oklahoma
- Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts
- Public Health Management Corporation (PA)
- Public Health Solutions (NY)
- Puerto Rico Public Health Institute
- Rural Health Institute of New York
- Seven Directions: Indigenous Public Health
- South Carolina Institute of Medicine & Public Health
- Tennessee Institute of Public Health
- Texas Health Institute
- Trailhead Institute (CO)
- UL Research Institutes' Chemical Insights (GA)
- University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
- Vermont Public Health Institute



The Hub Model

NNPHI's hub model is an efficient structure for providing localized training and technical assistance across the U.S. The model was initially developed through five Hurricane Response Hubs that provided training and technical assistance to Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, and Texas over a five-year period. The fast-paced, coordinated effort among federal, state and local public health organizations facilitated training, technical assistance and information sharing to enhance ongoing environmental and occupational health recovery in jurisdictions affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

Regional Hubs

NNPHI is using a regional innovation hub model to provide training and technical assistance to health departments receiving **Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG)** funding. There are nine regional hubs:

- **Region 1:** Health Resources in Action (HRiA)
Serves Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- **Regions 2 & 3:** Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC)
Region 2 serves New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Region 3 serves Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- **Region 4:** Mississippi Public Health Institute (MSPHI)
Serves Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- **Region 5:** Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)
Serves Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.
- **Region 6:** Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI)
Serves Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.
- **Region 7:** Kansas Health Institute (KHI)
Serves Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri.
- **Region 8:** Trailhead Institute
Serves Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana.
- **Region 9:** Public Health Institute Center for Health Leadership and Impact (PHI CHLI)
Serves American Samoa, Arizona, California, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- **Region 10:** Northwest Center for Public Health Practice (NWCPHP)
Serves Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Each hub comprises one or more non-governmental public health organizations that work with state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments to analyze and operationalize essential public health functions in their regions. A public health institute serves as the hub's central coordinating body and may be supported by additional partners, or spokes, including public health training centers housed within schools of public health. Hub and spoke organizations bring deep subject matter expertise, local knowledge and trusted relationships, and extensive experience across a wide range of public health topics.

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest. All materials should be received by **July 13, 2026**.

First-round interviews will take place in August 2026.

Final candidates will meet with the Board of Directors in Washington, D.C. on September 22, 2026.

Selected candidates should plan to hold the above dates in the event they are invited by the search committee to participate in the interview process.

The expected salary range for this position is \$325,000 to \$385,000. The final determination on salary will be based on relevant experience and peer compensation data. NNPHI is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability, parental status, veteran status, or any other protected status under applicable laws.

WittKieffer is assisting NNPHI in this search. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the search consultants:

Jeff Schroetlin, Philip Tang, and Angela Raphael

araphael@wittkieffer.com

NNPHI values diversity and is committed to equal opportunity for all persons regardless of age, color, disability, ethnicity, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other status protected by law.

Helping local, state and national public health systems thrive.

NNPHI and its 52 member institutes provide trusted training, workforce development, and infrastructure strategies to strengthen public health outcomes in local and statewide contexts.