

## Steps to Public Health Accreditation:

PHAB lists seven steps to public health accreditation:

1. Pre-application: Tribal health departments will complete the [online orientation](#), and will inform PHAB of their intent to apply.  
Tribes should assess their readiness to pursue accreditation prior to this stage. PHAB has a [readiness checklist](#) Tribes can use to determine if they are ready. Tribes can also use the “[Self-Assessment Workbook for Tribal Health Departments](#)”, located on [NIHB’s accreditation tools page](#).  
Prior to this stage, Tribes should have completed their Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), and Strategic Plan. Significant progress should be made on the other documents/processes. You can view Tribal examples of the required documentation [HERE](#). To learn more about how Tribal Accreditation Support Initiative (Tribal ASI) grantees are working towards these documents, view our [Stories from the Field](#).
2. Application: Tribal health departments submit an application and fee, and complete an applicant training.
3. Document Selection and Submission: Applicants select documentation using the Standards and Measures, and uploads it to the PHAB website. Tribes can use the “[Document Tracking Tool](#)” on [NIHB’s accreditation tools page](#). For measures that are met through a relationship with a partner, the “[Worksheet for Assessing the Need for Agreements for Public Health Services](#)” can help Tribes determine the acceptable PHAB documentation, and can also be found on [NIHB’s accreditation tools page](#). Tribes may also want to review the “Supplemental Process and Documentation Guidance for Tribal Public Health Department Accreditation”, the most recent version of which can be found on [PHAB’s Accreditation Materials webpage](#). This guidance can assist Tribes in understanding how the PHAB Standards and Measures apply to their health department.
4. Site Visit: PHAB trained site visitors conduct a visit to verify the accuracy of the documentation submitted, as well as clarify questions and provide the opportunity for discussion. Following the visit, a site visit report is developed.  
To learn more about preparing for a site visit, you can watch NIHB’s Tribal Accreditation Learning Community webinar [Preparing for a Site Visit](#), or view the [PDF of the presentation](#).
5. Accreditation Decision: Using the site visit report, the Accreditation Committee will determine if the Tribal Health Department will be accredited.
6. Reports: Annual reports are required of accredited health departments to ensure that they continue to meet the Standards and Measures.
7. Rec accreditation: Departments will submit a new application for reaccreditation every five years.