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City of Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory Honored for Excellence

City laboratory one of 38 programs nationwide to receive NACCHO 2013 "Model Practice Award"

MILWAUKEE – The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Public Health Laboratory was recently honored with a "Model Practice Award" by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The award, presented to 38 local public health programs at the Association's annual conference on July 11, 2013, celebrates the development and implementation of a program that demonstrates exemplary and replicable qualities in response to a public health need.

"Receiving a 2013 Model Practice Award is an honor," said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. "The award solidifies the importance of a local public health laboratory to the health of our community and to the prevention of disease and public health threats nationwide."

Selected from a peer-reviewed group of 101 applications, the MHD's award recognizes its Laboratory System Improvement Program (L-SIP). Developed by the Association of Public Health Laboratories, L-SIP seeks to advance public health laboratory systems through a process of performance evaluation, system improvements, and periodic evaluation and assessment.

In November 2010, the MHD Laboratory became the first, and currently remains the only, municipality in the nation to adapt and apply L-SIP at the local level. Today, the MHD Laboratory works with area partners and stakeholders to set and implement improvement goals for Milwaukee's Local Public Health Laboratory (LPHL) System, particularly in the areas of workforce development and research.

The City of Milwaukee Health Department Public Health Laboratory was established in 1874. Today, it conducts more than 80,000 tests annually in support of programs such as water quality, communicable disease, food safety, and environmental health hazards. For more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/healthlab.

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