



Health Director

Grand Island, Nebraska

Leadership Profile

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An Organizational Culture Grounded in Service

"This is an organization where people genuinely care about one another and the community. Staff show up every day because they believe in the work, trust one another, and feel supported to do their jobs well."

Why This Role, Why Now

Central District Health Department (CDHD) stands at an important moment of transition and opportunity. With a strong foundation, deep community trust, and anticipated organizational growth, the Health Director will have the opportunity to shape the department's next chapter—building on what works while thoughtfully guiding innovation, workforce expansion, and long-term sustainability.

The Opportunity

The Central District Health Department Board of Health seeks an experienced and collaborative public health leader to serve as its next Health Director. Serving approximately 80,000 residents across Hall, Hamilton, and Merrick Counties, CDHD is a full-service local health department with a strong reputation for partnership, effectiveness, and community responsiveness.

This leadership transition follows a period of stability and growth. The incoming Health Director will inherit an organization that is well-regarded, financially sound, and poised for expansion—including the implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Project and anticipated PHAB accreditation. CDHD maintains strong partnerships across healthcare, education, local government, and community organizations and is widely regarded as a steady and trusted public health presence in the region.

Organization Overview

Established in 2001 under Nebraska statute, Central District Health Department is governed by a 13-member Board of Health. The department provides a comprehensive portfolio of public health services, including epidemiology, immunizations, WIC, environmental health, maternal and child health, lead prevention, community health worker programs, and cross-sector initiatives addressing social determinants of health.

CDHD currently operates with an approximate \$9 million annual budget, with expected growth tied to new state and federal investments. The department employs more than 50 staff members, many of whom are bilingual, and anticipates workforce expansion in the coming year.

Leading the Organization

Reporting directly to the Board of Health, the Health Director serves as the chief executive and strategic leader of the department. The role balances governance partnership, organizational leadership, financial stewardship, and public-facing representation.

Key areas of leadership include:

- Strategic and financial leadership across a growing, diversified funding portfolio
- Partnership with the Board of Health to support evidence-informed governance
- Organizational leadership through growth, change, and accreditation
- Community and policy leadership at the local, regional, and state levels
- Workforce development, retention, and culture stewardship

Initial Priorities & Strategic Opportunities

In the first 12–18 months, the Health Director will be expected to focus on relationship-building and thoughtful assessment while advancing key organizational priorities. These include successfully launching and scaling the Rural Health Transformation Project, supporting workforce growth, maintaining operational stability, and strengthening systems that support long-term sustainability.

Executive Profile

CDHD values leaders who are visible, approachable, and committed to serving diverse communities with respect, cultural humility, and transparency.

Successful candidates will bring a combination of leadership experience, public health expertise, strong financial acumen, comfort working with boards, and a leadership style grounded in collaboration, sincerity, and trust.

Education and Certification

- Bachelor's degree in public health, nursing or health-related field
- Master's degree in Public Health, Public Administration, Healthcare Administration, Nursing, or a related field (preferred but not required)
- Clinical or health-professional training (e.g., nursing, environmental health, epidemiology)

Knowledge and Professional Experience

- Minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible leadership experience in public health or community health setting
- Demonstrated experience managing budgets and diverse funding sources, including state, federal, and grant-funded programs
- Experience working with or reporting to a governing board or elected body
- Experience leading or supporting public health accreditation efforts
- Background in rural or mixed urban-rural public health systems

Considered candidates must demonstrate:

- Leadership experience in public health or closely related systems
- Political and community savvy within diverse and rural contexts
- A steady leadership presence and strong communication skills
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, and community-centered public health practice



Community & Quality of Life

Central District Health Department serves a diverse and growing region of central Nebraska anchored by the city of Grand Island. The area blends urban and rural living, growing economic opportunity, and a strong sense of community identity.

Outdoor recreation is abundant, with numerous parks, trails, and open spaces supporting active living for residents of all ages. Commute times are short and

daily life is marked by approachability and ease. Cultural attractions, seasonal events, and long-standing local traditions contribute to a strong community, while the area's affordability supports home ownership and long-term settlement.

The community offers a meaningful professional and personal environment—one where leaders can be visible, engaged, and connected to the people they serve, while maintaining a sustainable pace of life. The combination of professional purpose, community connection, and quality of life makes this region an appealing place to both lead and live.

- Learn more about the region: [Visit Grand Island](#)
- Community and economic information: [Grow Grand Island](#)
- Local history and cultural attractions: [Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer](#)
- Regional events: [Nebraska State Fair](#)
- Parks and trails: [Grand Island Parks & Recreation](#)
- Natural areas and conservation: [Crane Trust \(Platte River\)](#)



Governance, Compensation & Candidacy

The Health Director reports directly to the governing board and serves as the organization's chief executive, responsible for implementing board-adopted policy and leading the department's day-to-day operations. The Board provides strategic oversight, fiscal stewardship, and policy direction, while the Health Director maintains operational authority and leadership responsibility.

The salary range for this position is \$120,640–\$176,966, with starting salary commensurate with experience. CDHD offers a comprehensive benefits package and a supportive work environment.

This search is being conducted by The Public Health Network LLC. All inquiries, nominations, and applications will be handled confidentially. Candidates interested in learning more about this opportunity are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of interest via [The Public Health Network](#).

The Central District Health Department is an equal opportunity employer 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.

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We lead executive searches and provide advisory support across leadership recruitment, succession planning, and workforce strategy. Our work is grounded in integrity, transparency, and collaboration. We have one clear goal: help public health organizations build teams people are excited to join—and proud to stay with.

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