1. High Performance and Quality Improvement

* The accreditation process will **highlight MDH strengths**.
* MDH can **identify and address** **areas for** **quality and performance improvement**.
* Improvements to achieve and maintain public health department accreditation will lay the groundwork for **improved health outcomes** for all who live, work or vacation in Minnesota.

2. Recognition, Validation, and Accountability

* Accreditation will verify that MDH **meets nationally adopted standards** that are recognized as validating the services provided by health departments.
* Public health department accreditation can **raise the visibility** **of public health** to the citizens who are served by MDH.
* Accreditation **provides accountability to the public, funders, and governing entities at all levels.**

3. Improved Internal and External Communication and Collaboration

* By following a Statewide Health Advisory Committee recommendation that MDH should seek voluntary national accreditation no later than 2013, **MDH will demonstrate leadership to Minnesota’s public health system**.
* Within MDH, accreditation can **improve the understanding of the functions and roles of health department staff**. Staff may gain a better understanding of how their role contributes to the health department’s mission and the delivery of essential services.
* Accreditation **encourages better communication and collaboration** among staff, governing entities, partners, community members, and other external stakeholders.

4. Potential Increased Access to Resources

* Accreditation will highlight the capacity and capability of MDH. This may result in **increased opportunities for resources**. These resources might include:
	+ Access to funding to support quality and performance improvement;
	+ Funding to address infrastructure gaps identified in the accreditation process;
	+ Opportunities to pilot new programs and processes;
	+ Streamlined application processes for grants and programs; and
	+ Acceptance of accreditation in lieu of other accountability processes.