

REVIVE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT CORE FUNDING

MACo advocates to prioritize public health in the face of the opioid epidemic and crises to come by reviving local health department funding.

Bill Sponsors

Senator Delegate
Kathy Klausmeier Erek Barron

Committees

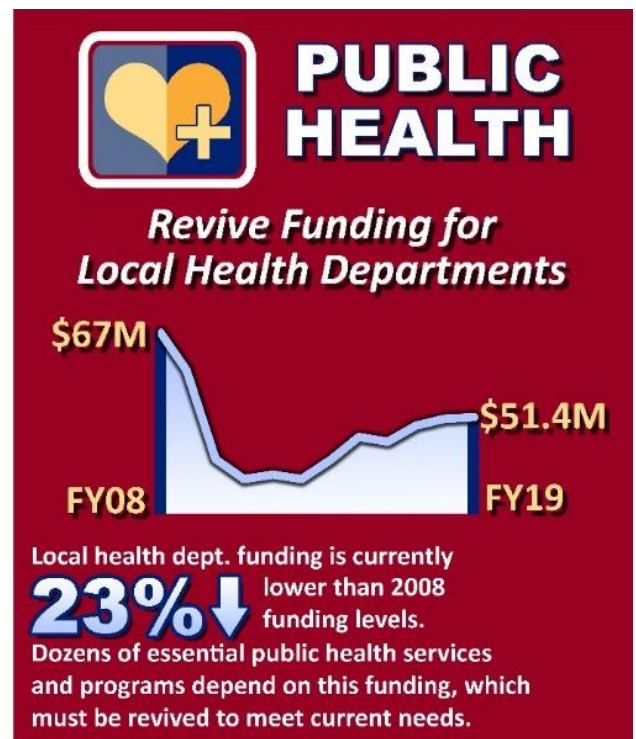
Senate Budget & Tax House Appropriations

Important Points

- Core Funding was cut during the recession and never fully restored.
- Core Funding is 23% lower now than it was in 2008 - over 10 years ago!
- Dozens of essential public health services and programs provided in your communities depend on Core Funding.
- Core Funding must be revived to fill gaps in services and meet critical local needs.

What the Bill Does

- Restores Core Funding to pre-recession levels - what it should be in today's dollars.
- Protects Core Funding from being cut as it was during the last recession.
- Changes the inflationary index to better reflect and account for the increased cost of medical services.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Core Funding?

Local Health Departments are funded through a combination of federal, state, and county funds as well as fee collection. The state “Core Funding” is determined through a statutory formula that sets a minimum funding level with subsequent increases based on inflation and population growth.

What is the Problem?

Core Funding is still historically significantly lower than it once was due to state fiscal constraints, cost containment measures, and new interpretations of inflationary increases. Funding reached a high of almost \$67 million in FY 2008. It is only \$51 million now. That is 23% below where it was 10 years ago. Funding has remained relatively stagnant while costs continue to increase.

What Programs Does Core Funding Support?

Dozens of essential public health services and programs can be supported through Core Funding. County health officers can use Core Funding to target local needs and fill gaps in services. It is flexible enough to be applied where other funding sources are limited or unable to be used.

Examples of Programs (*ask your health officer for specific local examples*):

- Providing mental health and substance use disorder treatment, crisis services, case management and care support, prevention, education and recovery services.
- Investigation, treatment, and monitoring of infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola and Zika
- Administering vaccinations to children and adults
- Offering testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- Conducting reproductive health exams, cervical cancer screenings, and family planning services
- Cancer screenings and referrals
- Tobacco cessation classes and treatment services
- Conducting inspection of retail establishments for tobacco sales to minors
- Conducting case management of children with lead exposure
- Providing case management and advocacy services for persons with disabilities.
- Monitoring and health inspections for beaches, public pools, campgrounds, mobile parks, daycares, foster and adoption placement
- Reviewing and approving permits and collecting well samples
- Conducting soil evaluation and well water perc testing
- Conducting food service facility licensing and inspections for restaurants, farmers’ markets, mobile food trucks and temporary food vendors and events
- Investigations of potential food-borne outbreaks
- Providing school-based health services such as flu vaccinations, hearing and vision screenings, and behavioral health services.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

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