



## Local Health Departments Build Strong Communities

People across the United States live better lives because of the work of local health departments and their staff. Local health departments lay the groundwork for the kinds of healthy choices that keep people from getting sick in the first place. Public health professionals work in communities every day in ways that the public may not notice: providing immunizations to school kids, helping moms and babies get a healthy start and monitoring disease trends to prevent outbreaks. These public health professionals come from a wide variety of

disciplines, including: nursing, nutrition, health education and epidemiology. Local health departments vary in size, from rural health departments relying on a handful of staff to large urban departments with thousands of staff.

Since 2008, local health departments have eliminated approximately 56,630 skilled professional jobs. Federal funding is essential to sustaining the capacity and capabilities of local health departments.

### NACCHO Recommendations

To protect health and safety, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recommends the following in fiscal year (FY) 2020:

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

##### PREVENTIVE HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

FY19: \$160 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF)

President's FY19 Budget: \$0

President's FY20 Budget: N/A

FY19 NACCHO Request: \$170 million

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a vital source of funding for state and local health departments. This unique funding gives states the autonomy and flexibility to solve their unique problems and provide similar support to local communities, while still making states accountable for demonstrating the local, state, and national impact of this investment. NACCHO opposes the Administration's elimination of this program.

##### PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FY19: \$51 million

President's FY19 Budget: \$45 million

President's FY20 Budget: N/A

FY19 NACCHO Request: \$57 million

These funds support the CDC's fellowship and training programs that fill critical gaps in the public health workforce, provide on-the-job training, and provide continuing education and training for the public health workforce. The Public Health Associate Program also places CDC-trained staff in the field and strengthens local and state health department capacity and capabilities. These funds also support the Epidemic Intelligence Service, the CDC's disease detectives.

##### EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LAB CAPACITY (ELC) GRANT PROGRAM

FY19: \$195 million (\$40 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF))

President's FY19 Budget: \$155 million

President's FY20 Budget: N/A

FY20 NACCHO Request: \$195 million

The ELC grant program is a single grant vehicle for multiple programmatic initiatives that go to 50 state health departments, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles County, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC), Puerto Rico, and the Republic of Palau.

The ELC grants strengthen local and state capacity to perform critical epidemiology and laboratory work by detecting, tracking and responding to known infectious disease threats and maintaining core capacity to be the nation's eyes and ears on the ground to detect new threats as they emerge.

ELC funding was critical to the 2016 response to Zika virus, bolstering capacity at the ground level to detect disease and control its spread, sparing families from devastating birth defects.

## Local Health Departments Respond to Community Needs

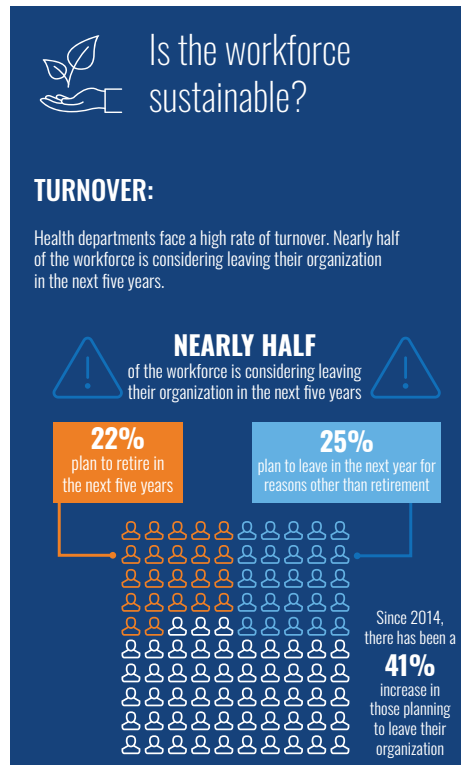
Local health department staff provide a wide range of public health services. Public health threats and opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century require a broad skill set within infectious and chronic disease prevention, emergency preparedness, public health information technology, and environmental health.

*“CDC and public health departments cannot predict what new challenges we will face tomorrow or in the coming years. We know from experience how important it is for America to have highly trained, dedicated professionals ready to meet the next challenge.”*

*—Dr. Patricia Simone, CDC Director of Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development*

The top areas of training needs are budgeting and financial management, systems and strategic thinking, change management, and developing a vision for a healthy community.

*(Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, The de Beaumont Foundation, NACCHO, and ASTHO)*



*(Source: Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, the de Beaumont Foundation, NACCHO, and ASTHO)*

### About NACCHO

The National Association of County and City Health Officials is the voice of nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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