



2014-01

RESOLUTION & POSITION STATEMENT
Supporting Foundational Package of Public Health Services

The Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) supports fully funding a foundational (minimum) package of public health services. The face of public health is changing rapidly and the public health system needs to adapt in order to survive and thrive during these changes. Historically, public health has had unpredictable and inadequate funding that is often uncoordinated at the state and federal level. Public Health has had a reduced workforce of 464 employees lost since 2008, totaling a 14% reduction. Mounting mandatory fringe cost is up by 66% to a level of 55% of salary and is expected to increase to 64% of salary in 2015. Rising pension and health insurance cost is to increase over \$15 million in 2015 from a total projected \$68 million in 2014. Constrained Medicaid Service Payments required LHD Match and MCO restriction. These financial challenges, coupled with overall declining state and federal program funding increased the demand for local support over 41% and made for diminished capacity to do mandated public health services. Thus, when federal, state, and local monies are decreasing, the future of public health becomes uncertain, especially as to the scope of what local health departments are required to do.

The 2012 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report, "[*For the Public's Health, Investing in a Healthier Future*](#)," outlines several key features from an expert panel convened by the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council that include:

- Current federal funding levels for public health departments fall short of what is needed to allow departments to function smoothly in fulfilling their duties.
- Governmental public health needs adequate funding to enable it to deliver the minimum package of public health services—those foundational and programmatic services needed to promote and protect the public's health.
- Sufficient, stable, sustainable funding is needed to support state and local public health departments.

KPHA supports the IOM recommendation for a minimum package of "foundational" and "programmatic" public health services that protect and promote the health of populations, are available and visible in all communities, and serve as a framework for program and financial management. Kentucky local health departments provide valued services to the Commonwealth. Each year over 60,477 food establishment were inspected, 16,539 public facility inspections (such as schools, hotels, pools, tattoo parlors, etc.) performed, 9,377 citizens were screened/treated for Communicable Disease, 10,996 citizens were served by the HANDS Program, 144,371 citizens were provided with WIC services, 527,082 citizens were immunized with 894,727 doses of vaccine, 58,394 citizens were screened for cancer, and 82,001 citizens were provided Diabetes education. None of these services would be available for Kentuckians without the dedicated staff and infrastructure of the local health departments.

KPHA supports the following, which is proposed by the Kentucky Health Department Association (KHDA):

- Fund 50% of Fringe increase as a recurring appropriation in State Budget (estimated \$7.5 million in 2015)
- Assure mandated services with an increase of \$21 million General Fund dollars to a level of \$35 million to supplement the current 1.8 cent Local Tax mandate
- Elimination of the Medicaid Match for local health departments
- Services to continue at level funding if not statutory
- Statutory Mandated Services to include:
 - Enforcement of Public Health Regulations
 - Communicable Disease Control
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Public Health Education and Policy

As described by the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) in their [Statement of Policy on Minimum Package of Public Health Services](#), without appropriate resources, local health departments cannot be expected to assure the delivery of the minimum package of services. As defined by NACCHO, the minimum package should be built upon the three core public health functions, the ten essential public health services, the operational definition of a local health department, and capacities needed for public health preparedness. The foundational capabilities of the minimum package would be used by local health departments and their governing boards to plan and set priorities and as a framework for accountability and performance measurement, quality assurance and improvement and as the basis for standard setting by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#).

The KPHA urges federal and state funding sources to be more flexible and coordinated in the use of funds to achieve state and local population health goals, driven by data from community health assessment and community health improvement plan.

This statement was approved by the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Public Health Association on this 22nd day of January 2014.



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