

Local Public Health Grant:

Providing Local Control to Meet State Mandates & Local Priorities



Local Public Health Performs State Mandated Services

The Local Public Health Act (MN Stat. § 145A) mandates that Minnesota's local public health agencies fulfill six core responsibilities:

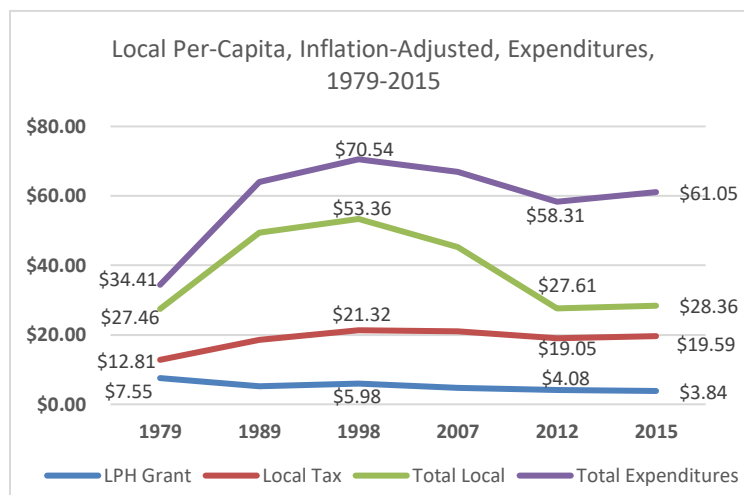
Assure an adequate local public health infrastructure	Prepare for and respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery	Prevent the spread of infectious disease
Protect against environmental health hazards	Promote healthy communities and healthy behaviors	Assure the quality and accessibility of health services

These services are necessary to protect and promote the health and safety of our communities and include response efforts for emerging issues like mental health, opioid abuse, and infectious disease threats (e.g. COVID-19, measles, tuberculosis). Local public health services are funded by a combination of federal, state and local dollars. However, an over-reliance on local tax levies and a series of funding cuts have stressed the system, compromising local public health's capacity to adequately meet state mandates and address emerging health threats.

The Local Public Health Grant is Underfunded, Placing Additional Burden on Local Tax Levies

The Local Public Health Grant is one of the state's main investments in local public health's state-mandated services. It provides local governments local control to direct dollars to public health priorities, but it accounts for just 6.2% of local public health expenses and has decreased as a percentage of total expenditures over time. As a result, local tax levies have increasingly carried the burden of meeting mandates and communities' expanding needs.

Local tax levies account for nearly 36% of all local public health expenses. In total, more than half (51%) of local public health funding is locally-generated.



LPHA Supports a Statewide Increase to the Local Public Health Grant

LPHA supports HF 428/SF 1173, which would increase funding for the Local Public Health Grant by \$20 million per year. This funding would help to restore local capacity to maintain core state-mandated services, address emerging public health issues, and relieve local tax levies.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

About the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota

The Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization that works to achieve a strong local public health system through leadership and collective advocacy on behalf of Minnesota's county, city and tribal local public health departments. The Association represents more than 230 public health directors, supervisors and community health services administrators throughout the state. LPHA is an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties.