



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



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## **LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER!!!**

### **BACKGROUND:**

Currently, state per capita (per person) funding for local health departments is \$5,347,208.98, roughly \$1.52 per person. This funding helps provide full-time public health services for 93% of the state's population.

Under the Governor's proposed budget, Per Capita Grant funds for local health departments will be cut 44%. This proposal would:

1. Eliminate **ALL** Per Capita funding to 77 municipalities where 64% (2,261,001) of Connecticut residents live. This includes:
  - i. Eliminating funding to the 32 full-time municipal health departments that serve 1,694,030 state residents.
  - ii. Eliminating 7 of the Current 20 Health Districts because of a new definition of "regional health departments" that defines them as serving three or more municipalities and a populations of >50,000. This impacts 343,737 residents.
  - iii. Providing no funding for the 28 part-time health departments.
2. Funding for "regional health departments" will be decreased to \$1.25 a reduction of 40% for towns with population of >5,000 and 49% for towns with population of <5,000.

## **Is your local health agency impacted? YES!**

### **THIS CUT WILL HAVE GRAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH--HOW SO?**

- 76% of local health departments will have to lay off trained public health professionals including sanitarians, inspectors, public health nurses and health educators.
- As a result of staffing reductions, local health departments will be forced to reduce or eliminate programs. This could have disastrous effects on health:
  - An increased risk of food borne outbreaks. Local health departments will not have the staff to conduct restaurant inspections as required by state law.
  - Disease outbreaks may go unrecognized or spread out of control because of delays in communicable disease follow-up and investigation.
  - Residents will not be able to assume that the daycare facilities they are sending their children to have been inspected. Health inspections ensure the safety of the water and the absence of lead poisoning threat.
  - Lack of follow-up on community complaints regarding rats, poorly maintained swimming pools, and blight will put the public at increased risk of West Nile Virus, Lyme disease, rabies and other diseases.
  - Elimination of chronic disease prevention and management programs will result in increased medical costs.
- Local health departments are already challenged to provide the public health protections that Connecticut residents demand and deserve. This cut would decimate existing local public health programs and services.

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