

## COLLABORATORS

New Jersey Association of County & City Health Officials



New Jersey Environmental Health Association



New Jersey Public Health Association



New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association



New Jersey Society for Public Health Education



New Jersey Association of Public Health Nurse Administrators



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

# PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS' COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

## Support New Jersey Public Health Bills: S2413 & A4115

**Allows for State appropriation of \$10 million for Public Health Priority Funding.**  
**Good public health is good economic health for New Jersey.**

LHDs continue to work hard to support their communities, with no dedicated, flexible State based funding. NJ statute dictates that Public Health Priority Funding (PHPF) shall be included in the annual state budget. However, there has not been any allocation of these funds since 2010. Bills S2413 & A4115 would restore PHPF funding to this year's state budget as a first step to protecting the allocation in the future.

### Public Health Funding Protects our Communities

- New Jersey's public health system needs the reinstatement of prioritized funding, and local health departments are requesting \$10,000,000 to revitalize their infrastructure.
- In 1990, this funding provided \$6.2 million statewide to local health departments. With inflation, that funding would equate to \$11.2 million today. <sup>1</sup>
- Restoration of public health funding would restore and enhance essential services including, but not limited to:
  - Infectious disease investigation, outbreak containment and emergency response
  - Control of chronic illnesses and promotion of health education
  - Advancing economics of communities through regional, place-based initiatives
  - Improving health equity



### Public Health Funding: A Return on Investment

- Public health offers exceptional return on investment:
- Each 10% increase in local public health spending decreases deaths attributed to heart disease, diabetes and cancer <sup>2</sup>
- Health Department initiated nutrition and tobacco reduction programs could save the country over \$16 billion - a return on investment of \$5.60 for each \$1 spent. <sup>3</sup> In New Jersey, this would amount to \$504 million in savings.
- Up to \$34 is saved for every \$1 spent per person on Health Department initiated substance abuse prevention programs <sup>4</sup>
- Each \$1 spent on childhood vaccination saves as much as \$44 per person <sup>5</sup>
- Investing in public health is smart, fiscally responsible and improves productivity.
- Prevention is cheaper than treatment!

### Sustainability After Grants



- We must discontinue stop-gap emergency grant-based funding and provide stable and predictable annual funding.
- Temporary grant funding does not meet the community's needs.
- Prescriptive grants do not allow Health Departments to invest in needs specific to that agency and population.
- The Future of Health Departments are unstable without sustained funding.
- The COVID-19 pandemic exposed a Public Health system 'Hollowed Out' from lack of funding and neglect.
- A stable source of funding is more critical now than ever.
- Without significant financial investment the public health system could collapse.

### Primary Sponsors

#### S2413

Senator Vin Gopal (D)  
Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D)

#### Co-Sponsor:

Senator Declan J. O'Scanlon Jr. (R)  
Senator Patrick J. Diegnan Jr. (D)  
Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D)

#### A4115

Assemblyman Herb Conaway Jr. (D)  
Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson (D)  
Assemblywoman Shanique Speight (D)

#### Co-Sponsor:

Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin (D)  
Assemblyman Brian Bergen (R)  
Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro (D)  
Assemblywoman Sadaf F. Jaffer (D)  
Assemblywoman Marilyn Piperno (R)  
Assemblywoman Kim Eulner (R)  
Assemblyman William W. Spearman (D)  
Assemblyman John DiMaio (R)

### Reversing the Trend: A Declining Workforce & Lack of Support

- When compared to national averages, New Jersey health departments are under-resourced, ranking 41st out of 50 states in public health expenditures.
- New Jersey's local health departments have 55% less staff than the national average.
- In 2011, the first year after public health funding was eliminated:
  - 53% of New Jersey's local health departments reported loss of staff.
  - 32% reported reduced staff time.
  - 71% reported cuts to at least one funded public health program.
  - 47% of New Jersey's local health departments cut three or more programs <sup>7</sup>

#### MOST PROMINENT REASONS for Leaving



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; <sup>2</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; <sup>3</sup> Trust for America's Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; <sup>4</sup> Trust for America's Health; <sup>5</sup> Johns Hopkins University; <sup>6</sup> U.S. Surgeon General; <sup>7</sup> NACCHO; <sup>8,9</sup> [https://debeaumont.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/PH\\_Wins\\_Final\\_Dec.jpg](https://debeaumont.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/PH_Wins_Final_Dec.jpg)