Fund Public Health & Protect our Communities

- New Jersey’s public health system needs the reinstatement of dedicated funding, and local health departments are requesting $10,000,000 statewide.
- This will establish necessary infrastructure and capacities, for which there is zero State funding.
- There is a statutory obligation for the State to provide funding to local health, and health departments have been without this funding since 2010.
- Restoration of public health funding would not replace current support or services, but would restore and expand vital essential services including, but not limited to:
  - Infectious disease investigation, outbreak containment and emergency response
  - Control of chronic illnesses and enhancement of health promotion and education
  - Advance economics of communities through regional, place-based initiatives
  - Improve health by addressing social determinants of health and increasing equity

Public Health Funding: A Return on Investment

- Funding public health is smart and fiscally responsible.
- State funding to local health departments was $6.2 million statewide in 1990, which would equate to $11.2 million today.¹
- Public health offers exceptional return on investment:
  - Each 10% increase in local public health spending decreases deaths attributed to heart disease, diabetes and cancer ²
  - An additional investment of just $10 per person to increase physical activity, improve nutrition and reduce tobacco use could save the country over $16 billion - a return on investment of $5.60 for each $1 spent.³ In New Jersey, this would amount to $504 million in savings.
  - Up to $34 is saved for every $1 spent per person on substance abuse prevention ⁴
  - Each dollar spent on childhood vaccination saves as much as $44 ⁵
- Public health improves productivity:
  - For every dollar spent on workforce wellness programs, absenteeism costs are reduced by approximately $2.73 ⁶

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 ⁷

Public Health Funding Saves Lives and Money!

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; ² Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; ³ Trust for America’s Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; ⁴ Trust for America’s Health; ⁵ Johns Hopkins University; ⁶ U.S. Surgeon General; ⁷ National Association of County & City Health Officials