



Ohio Department of Health Priority: Local Health Departments Public Health Futures

Benefitting All Ohio Tax Payers

The intent and purpose of the following recommendations are to reduce barriers and provide more opportunities for local health districts to increase capacity, demonstrate outcomes, improve quality, streamline reporting, and create efficiencies. If implemented, these recommendations will strengthen the public health system by enhancing collaboration, integrating programs, and improve the assurance of services on a state and local level.

The Future of Public Health

In June 2012, the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) completed a report titled "Public Health Futures: Considerations for a New Framework for Local Public Health in Ohio." The 2012 mid-year biennial budget review created the Legislative Committee on Public Health Futures to examine the current local public health capacity, jurisdiction, services, and financing of local public health services. The committee reviewed the AOHC's report and later unanimously agreed to eleven recommendations presented to Governor Kasich and the State Legislature on October 31, 2012. The recommendations reinforce the connection between the Ohio Department of Health and local health districts and challenge public health to provide continued leadership in the areas of data, program and administration. Based on the recommendations of the committee, there are several proposed changes to Ohio Revised Code included in the SFY 2014-2015 budget which will improve and align public health services in Ohio. By removing barriers, as well as adopting other programmatic and administrative opportunities, local public health services will be delivered in a more coordinated and efficient manner.

The "Futures Report" presented the following minimum package of public health services:

- Environmental health services
- Communicable disease control
- Epidemiology services
- Access to birth and death records
- Health promotion and prevention
- Emergency preparedness
- Linking people to health services

CORE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- Clinical preventive and primary care services (e.g., immunizations, clinics)
- Specific maternal and child health programs (e.g., WIC, Help Me Grow)
- Non-mandated environmental health services (e.g., lead screening)
- Other option services (e.g., home health, school nurses)

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- Quality assurance
- Information management and analysis
- Policy development
- Resource development
- Legal support
- Laboratory capacity
- Support and expertise for community engagement strategies

FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES



Public Health Futures Budget Requests

Accreditation

Require all health departments to be accredited beginning in 2018 as a condition for receiving funding from the Ohio Department of Health. Beginning July 2013 accreditation standards will be incorporated into all grant deliverables to assist local health departments build capacity and knowledge of the accreditation process.

Community Health Assessments

Require local health departments and hospitals to complete a joint assessment every two years.

Regionalized Grants

Beginning July 1, 2013, ODH will begin a process of combining grant awards to a regional model creating administrative efficiencies and increasing funds for the delivery of direct services.

Local Health District Board Members

- Require eight hours of continuing education units for all Board Members annually and to be organized through Ohio Association of Boards of Health.
- Mandate that local health district board composition has one representative from a local hospital or the largest medical facility in the district.

Other Efficiencies

National Certification Sanitarians

Require local sanitarians that perform inspections of food service operations or retail food establishments to obtain and maintain certification from the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Shared Services

- Promote local health departments' progression toward regional shared service hubs to increase capacity of foundational capabilities.
- Permits contracting and merging of contiguous and non-contiguous health departments.
- Permits multi-county levy authority for public health services.

