

Foundational Public Health Services



Local health jurisdictions are the frontline defenders against an expanding list of threats like infectious disease, chronic illness, harmful environmental exposures, and public health emergencies. Local public health works to reduce health disparities created when specific populations have worse health outcomes or are more susceptible to illness and injury due to systemic and institutional barriers.

Fully funding foundational public health services (FPHS) will assure that everyone, everywhere has access to consistent, efficient, and effective core public health services.

Foundational Public Health Services: \$285 million, General Fund State

Stable and ongoing funding is necessary not only to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, but to also address critical shortcomings in all scopes of public health practice. This state, local and tribal proposal takes a phased approach to fully funding the FPHS gap of \$450 million each biennium, starting with funding communicable disease, environmental public health and assessment services.

Local Public Health Governance & Authority

Local boards of health and health officers have the responsibility to enforce public health statutes and rules of the state, control contagious or infectious disease, and maintain the health and sanitation of the community. This responsibility is outlined in the State Constitution, Revised Code of Washington, and Washington Administrative Code.

As the governing entity of a local health jurisdiction, local boards of health provide assurance over policy development, resource stewardship, program governance, strategic vision, and community engagement. Local health officers serve as the enforcing entity of a local health jurisdiction, and have responsibility to enforce laws that protect from public health threats, direct programs that prevent disease and disability, and adopt science-driven practices that promote healthy behaviors and communities.

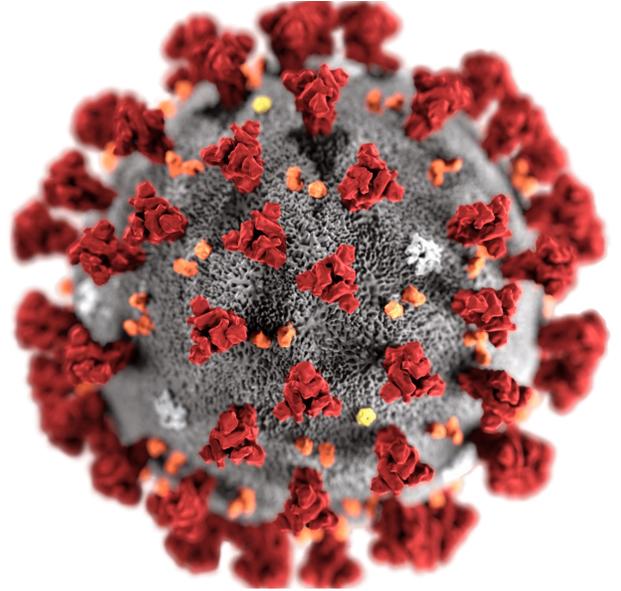
WSALPHO supports a collaborative stakeholder process that respects the public health authority of local health officers and local boards of health.

Coronavirus Response and Recovery

The Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted all facets of our health, well-being, and society, spotlighting the critical need for a strong local public health response. The Legislature must support counties in implementing local work to suppress disease outbreaks, coordinate care for individuals and families in isolation or quarantine, and support safe reopening strategies in the community.

Contain the Spread; \$387.4 M General Fund - State and \$50.5 M General Fund - Federal

Any strategy to combat the pandemic and fully reopen the state requires state and local coordination and commitment to safely reopen and stay open. This investment funds a comprehensive strategy for the public health systems to reduce and contain the spread of Covid-19 that supports our state's reopening goals. The Department of Health request would fund several local public health response activities; testing coordination, case investigation and contact tracing, outbreak response activities, care coordination, community outreach and operation needs.



Local Water System Safety: \$500,000 General Fund State



Small group B public water systems provide drinking water to small businesses and communities across the state, particularly in rural areas that are not served by public utilities. Approximately 13,400 Group B public water systems receive the assistances and oversight from local health jurisdictions to provide safe and reliable drinking water.

WSALPHO seeks state investment that supports the ability for local health jurisdictions to maintain existing programs and respond to expanding development in our rural areas.

Contact:

Jaime Bodden

Managing Director
jbodden@wsac.org

Brynn Brady

Contract Lobbyist
brynn@ciebaconsulting.com