



# Increase Funding to the Local Public Health Grant



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

## The state needs to invest more in public health.

According to a recent national report, Minnesota's investment in public health ranks 44th in the nation. Increasing the state's investment will strengthen our local public health system, helping community health boards and tribes address 21st century public health issues.

## Why is state investment needed?

### Investing in public health reduces health care costs.

For example, pregnant women who participate in the WIC Nutrition Program have fewer premature births and fewer low birth-weight babies. The average first year medical costs for a premature/low birth-weight baby is \$49,033 compared to \$4,551 for a baby without complications.

### Investing in public health protects the public's health from outbreaks of infectious disease.

Vaccination against childhood communicable diseases is one of the most cost-effective public health interventions available. According to an extensive cost-benefit analysis by the Centers for Disease Control, every dollar spent on immunization saves \$6.30 in direct medical costs, with an aggregate savings of \$10.5 billion across the U.S.

### Investment is needed to prepare for the future.

Many local health departments lack the capacity to respond to changing demographics, health disparities, and emerging issues (like Chlamydia or Ebola, for example), in addition to the complex health issues already impacting their communities. Present public health capacity is uneven around the state, with the greatest need in areas with low tax base who have found it difficult to use property taxes to address gaps.

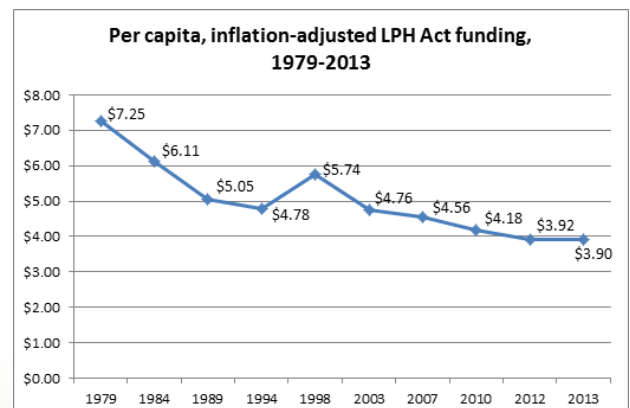
### Investing in public health prevents deaths.

Every 10% increase in public health spending resulted in a 7% decrease in infant mortality and a 3% decrease in heart disease mortality.

## State funding has declined.

Per capita funding from the LPH Act Grant has declined substantially and steadily since the Act passed in the 1970s and has not kept pace with inflation.

For more information, please contact:  
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota 651-789-4354



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