

c/o Illinois Public Health Association  
500 W. Monroe St., Ste. 1E  
Springfield, IL 62704  
[www.ipha.com](http://www.ipha.com)

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Representative Camille Y. Lilly  
Assistant Majority Leader, Chair  
Approp. Health & Human Services  
Illinois House of Representatives  
The Honorable Representative Anna Moeller  
Vice-Chairperson  
Approp. Health & Human Services Committee  
Illinois House of Representatives

The Honorable Senator Omar Aquino  
Chair  
Approp. Health and Human Services  
Illinois Senate  
The Honorable Senator Julie Morrison  
Vice-Chair  
Approp. Health and Human Services  
Illinois Senate

Dear Leader Lilly, Vice-Chairperson Moeller, Vice-Chair Morrison, and Members --

The undersigned organizations urge you to include at **least \$30.1 million in funding for the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for grants to certified local health departments via the Local Health Protection Grant (LHPG)**. This amount would restore the \$5 million reduction currently proposed in the SFY2025 budget for the department and increase by \$5 million to support the critical services provided by local health departments to ensure the health of our population.

Our organizations are strongly opposed to the proposed reduction in funding which would be damaging to local health departments throughout the state. The SFY2024 LHPG appropriation increase, passed by the General Assembly, was the first significant funding change for the state's 97 certified local health departments (LHDs) in almost two decades and was critical to help them continue to fulfill their statutory requirements as delegate agencies of IDPH.

Certified local health departments in Illinois are on the front lines fulfilling their mandates to protect the public by ensuring safe water, disease control and prevention, safe food, and acting as agents of the State of Illinois for the protection of our communities. The \$5 million in new LHPG funding appropriated for SFY2024 was a turning point and helped address some of the unprecedented demands on the public health system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant increases led to new minimum funding levels, which allowed LHDs to replace critical staff who retired or left the public health sector and restart programs to accomplish statutory requirements. Reducing funding to SFY2023 levels endangers the ability of local health departments to maintain these staff and continue to effectively implement the vital programs which ensure health protection in our counties.

The undersigned organizations are committed to championing optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. Ensuring adequate funding for certified local health departments to support their workforce, act as agents for the state of Illinois, and protect the health and safety of our communities is critical. Despite the funding increase in FY2024, Illinois' certified local health departments remain woefully underfunded. We urge you to include at least \$30.1 million for the Local Health Protection Grant in the FY2025 State of Illinois Budget appropriation bill as provided by HB4823/SB3301 as amended.

Please contact Tom Hughes at [thughes@ipha.com](mailto:thughes@ipha.com) or Conny Moody at [cmoody@ipha.com](mailto:cmoody@ipha.com) or 217-522-5687 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Adams County Health Department  
AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC)  
Bond County Health Department  
Boone County Health Department  
Brown County Health Department  
Bureau Health County Health Dept.  
Bureau Henry Stark Regional Office of  
Education #28  
Calhoun County Health Department  
Carroll County Health Department  
Cass County Health Department  
Champaign-Urbana Public Health  
District  
Chicago Department of Public Health  
Christian County Health Department  
Clay County Health Department  
Cook County Dept. of Public Health  
Cumberland County Health Department  
DeKalb County Health Department  
DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health  
Department  
Douglas County Health Department  
Effingham County Health Department  
Egyptian Health Department  
Fayette County Health Department  
Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health  
Department  
Freedom House  
Fulton County Health Department  
Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry  
Greene County Health Department  
Grundy County Health Department  
Hamilton County Health Department  
Henderson County Health Department  
Henry County

Henry County Board of Health  
Henry County Health Department  
Henry County Office of Emergency  
Management  
IL Association of Public Health  
Administrators  
Illinois Primary Health Care Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois Public Health Institute  
Jackson County Health Department  
Jasper County Health Department  
Jefferson County Health Department  
Jersey County Health Department  
Jo Daviess County Health Department  
Kane County Health Department  
Kankakee County Health Department  
Kendall County Health Department  
Kewanee Area United Way  
Knox County Health Department  
Lake County Health Department and  
Community Health Center  
LaSalle County Health Department  
Lee County Health Department  
Lincoln Memorial Hospital  
Livingston County Public Health Dept.  
Logan County Dept. of Public Health  
Macoupin County Public Health Dept.  
Madison County Health Department  
Marion County Health Department  
Marshall County Health Department  
Mason County Health Department  
McDonough County Health Department  
Mercer County Health Department  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Ogle County Health Department

Open Door Health Center of Illinois  
Peoria City/County Health Department  
Perry County Health Department  
Pike County Health Department  
Putnam County Health Department  
Randolph County Health Department  
Rock Island County Health Department  
Sangamon County Dept. of Public Health  
Shelby County Public Health Department  
Skokie Health and Human Services  
Southern IL Public Health Consortium  
Southern Seven Health Department  
Springfield Urban League Inc.  
St. Clair County Health Department  
Stark County Board of Health  
Stark County Health Department  
Stephenson County Health Department  
Stickney Public Health District  
The Community Wellness Project  
The Greater Springfield Chamber of  
Commerce  
Valek and Company, Inc.  
Vermilion County Health Department  
Wabash County Health Department  
Warren County Health Department  
Washington County Health Department  
Wayne County Health Department  
Whiteside County Health Department  
Will County Health Department &  
Community Health Center  
Winnebago County Health Department  
Woodford County Health Department