



c/o Illinois Public Health Association
500 W. Monroe St., Ste. 1E
Springfield, IL 62704
www.ipha.com

May 1, 2024

Dear Illinois General Assembly Member,

The more than 100 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 (\$20.1M) for the department and increase the LHPG appropriation by an additional \$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 or Conny Moody at cmoody@ipha.com or 217-522-5687 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,
Friends of Local Public Health
(Continued on Page 2)

Friends of Public Health

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
Greater Rockford Arab Chamber of
Commerce
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
Solutions Business Center
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
UIC College of Pharmacy, Rockford
Campus
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