



NCAALHD

North Carolina Association
of Local Health Directors

NC Association of Local Health Directors 2015 NCAALHD Legislative Priorities

- **Increase funding to Local Public Health to Address Rapidly Emerging Infectious Disease so preventive measures can be implemented without delay (e.g. Ebola, Enterovirus D68, Coronavirus, Meningitis, MERS-CoV, Tuberculosis, Influenza, etc.).** In light of recent national and international concern around communicable disease outbreaks, it is imperative that local health departments have a minimum set of resources available to detect, prevent, respond to, and communicate clearly about disease threats within their jurisdictions. Support for the basic core functions of local public health departments at the federal and state levels is waning, along with infrastructure funding, impacting local public health's ability to accomplish mandated services.
- Support the **expansion of Medicaid** in North Carolina to improve access to care, save lives, and increase funding for health care providers which in turn, saves and adds jobs.
- **Restore all funding from the Women's & Children's Health Block Grant to local public health** in order to provide intended evidence-based programs in local communities for women and children.
- **Restore Master Settlement funds** for the purpose of public health improvements in North Carolina, as originally intended.
- Address local health departments' ability to charge for **well water testing** in migrant housing, childcare centers, and food and lodging facilities as part of the permitting and inspections process. Note: Currently, N.C.G.S. 130A-39(g), states that boards of health can only impose cost-related fees for services performed related to "Wastewater Systems", "Public Swimming Pools", "Tattooing"; and services performed pursuant to N.C.G.S. 87-97 "Permitting, inspection, and testing of private drinking water wells". *(Alternatively, the state can continue to provide the water tests at no cost and LHDs can continue to provide the staff and local resource contributions at no cost.)*
- Prioritize sustainability of local **AID-to-County** funds for local health departments.
- **Advocate for school nurses**: regardless of a county's status as rural or urban, school nurses work closely with local public health to protect and promote health for children.
- Oppose any bill or amendment that weakens the ability of local health departments to **protect and promote the public's health**.
- Support the recommendation to **raise state tax on tobacco**, including electronic cigarettes, to the national average.

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