

Budget Brief – Local Health Departments

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH BB 08-10

SUMMARY

Local Health Departments (LHDs) cover all areas of the state and provide local public health services. The State utilizes the local health departments to administer many of the services required by state law. A significant portion of the funding for the local health departments comes from a General Fund block grant in the amount of \$2 million. While this line item is for the General Fund block grant funding only, the Utah Department of Health contracts with the LHDs for other services through contracts with other programs within the Department.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst recommends a base budget of \$2,092,200 ongoing General Fund as listed in the base budget bill. This is a flat budget from the FY 2007 appropriation. It is a 1.78 percent increase over the FY 2006 actual expenditures. The funding is all General Fund for pass-through block grants to assist the LHDs with their enforcement of state statutes at the local level. The budget for LHD is primarily made up of fees for service, property taxes, and county contributions.

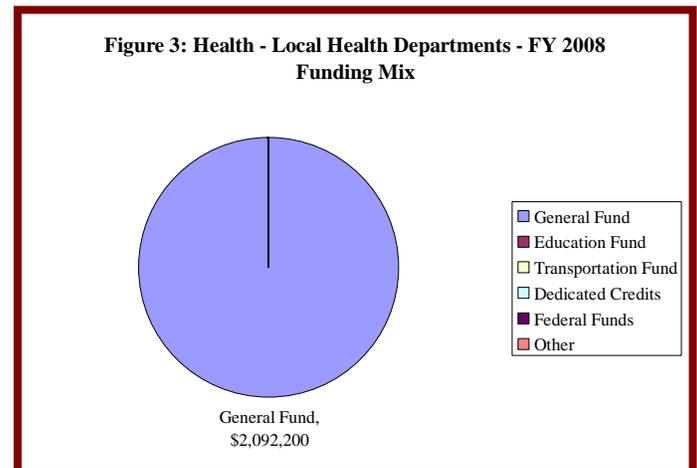
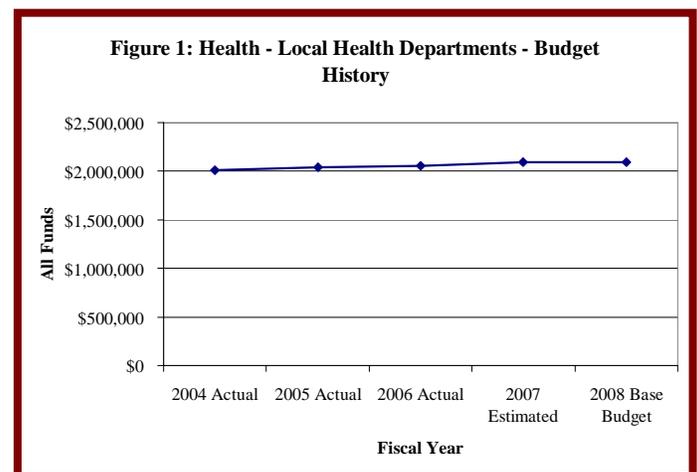
Base Budget Adjustments

Funding for the Local Health Departments was reduced each year from FY 2001 through FY 2004. There have been slight increases during FY 2005 through FY 2007, but has not reached the funding level of FY 2001. This is during the same period when medical inflation approached double digits and fuel and transportation costs have increased more than 30 percent. The only funding increases made the last three years have been a provider rate increase for compensation issues.

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends the base budget be continued with a recommendation for a provider rate increase. This will be evaluated by the Executive Appropriations Committee along with the other compensation issues.

The direct funding provided by the State is not the entire funding for the local health departments. A number of programs are administered at the local level through the Local Health Departments and funding is sometimes provided by additional categorical grants, some from other programs within the Department of Health. The overall funding and programs have not been reviewed in their entirety in the past. The Analyst recommends that the State funding be evaluated in relation to the State services provided and other sources of LHD funding during the 2007 interim period.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Local Health Departments provide a number of services to the local communities. A few of the services provided are: * selected health training and education programs;

- health inspections of restaurants and eating establishments;
- promotion of prenatal education;
- immunizations;
- safety;
- limited mental health services
- Women, infants and children (WIC) food supplement and education program.

The following FY 2005 activities are reported to give a sense of service levels. The FY 2006 numbers are currently being updated. LHD activities included serving 74,042 people in Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics and providing 126 car seat checkpoints. Other safety promotional events included: bicycle safety (124 events / 14,319 individuals), pedestrian safety (60 events / 56,666 individuals), motor vehicle safety, (41 events / 28,327 individuals), fall prevention (168 events / 5,297 individuals), fire safety (44 events / 12,351 individuals), firearm safety, (6+ events / 6,362 individuals), and domestic violence prevention, (2 events / 2,000 individuals).

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE***Budget Recommendation***

The Analyst recommends funding the full base General Fund budget of \$2,092,200 as detailed in the table below and as listed in the base budget bill. Adjustments for compensation will be addressed by the Executive Appropriations Committee during the General Session.

Health - Local Health Departments						
	FY 2006	FY 2007		FY 2007		FY 2008*
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Base Budget
General Fund	2,055,700	2,092,200	0	2,092,200	0	2,092,200
Total	\$2,055,700	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200
Programs						
Local Health Department Funding	2,055,700	2,092,200	0	2,092,200	0	2,092,200
Total	\$2,055,700	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200
Categories of Expenditure						
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,055,700	2,092,200	0	2,092,200	0	2,092,200
Total	\$2,055,700	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200	\$0	\$2,092,200
Other Data						
*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.						

Intent Language

No intent language is proposed for this line item.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee approve of the FY 2008 base budget as listed above and appropriated through the base budget bill. The Subcommittee may also want to recommend a provider rate increase to the Executive Appropriations Committee. Each one percent increase would be \$14,900. The total increase would depend on the total percentage increase recommended.