

Budget Brief – Local Health Departments

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DOH-09-10

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. About 3 percent 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 programs within the Department. For more detailed information please see the [Compendium of Budget Information for the 2008 General Session](#) (Utah Department of Health), Chapter 10, pages 133 to 134.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Analyst base budget recommendation is \$2,181,600. The base budget reflects the elimination of \$500,000 one-time General Fund monies for helping LHD's strengthen their capacity to respond to disease outbreaks. The funding is all General Fund pass-through block grants to assist the LHDs with their enforcement of state statutes at the local level. In 2006 all sources of State funding made up about 6% of the total general budgets for LHD's, with the remaining 94% primarily coming from roughly equal amounts of fees, county contributions, and federal funds.

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends the base budget be approved. The direct funding provided by the State in this Line Item is about 3% of 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 or by other programs within the Department of Health.

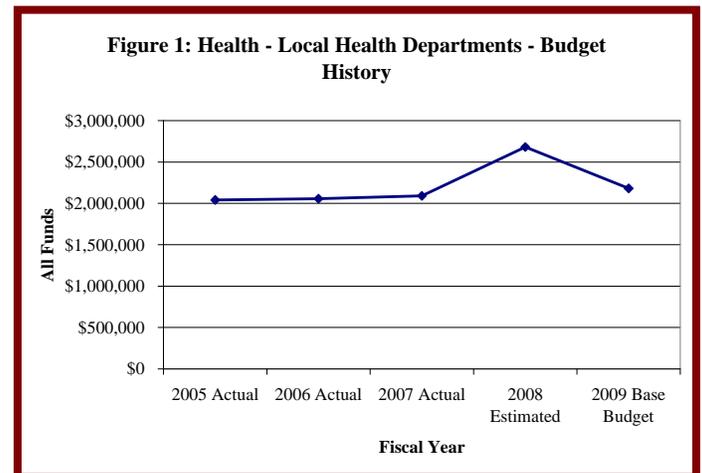
ACCOUNTABILITY

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
- injury prevention, proper car seat installation, and bicycle safety
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food supplement and education program
- monitoring of air and water quality

Last year this line item received \$500,000 one-time General Fund for Disease Outbreak Response. Three focus areas have been identified to use the funds: (1) Medical Reserve Corps, (2) Local Electronic Disease Reporting System, and (3) Computer Hardware Purchase for disease outbreak management.

The following FY 2007 activities are reported to give a glimpse of services offered at local Health Departments. There were 67,491 women and children served in statewide WIC clinics. LHDs offered safety promotion and



education events including: car seat safety (345 events / 28,310 individuals), bicycle and pedestrian safety (291 events / 62,544 individuals), motor vehicle safety for teens, (173 events / 17,017 individuals), sexual assault prevention (1,347 events / 36,227 individuals) and other violence and injury prevention (238 events / 49,053 individuals).

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Budget Recommendation

The Analyst recommends funding the full base General Fund budget of \$2,181,600 as detailed in the table below and as listed in the base budget bill.

Health - Local Health Departments						
Sources of Finance	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2008 Revised	Changes	FY 2009* Base Budget
General Fund	2,092,200	2,181,600	0	2,181,600	0	2,181,600
General Fund, One-time	0	500,000	0	500,000	(500,000)	0
Total	\$2,092,200	\$2,681,600	\$0	\$2,681,600	(\$500,000)	\$2,181,600
Programs						
Local Health Department Funding	2,092,200	2,681,600	0	2,681,600	(500,000)	2,181,600
Total	\$2,092,200	\$2,681,600	\$0	\$2,681,600	(\$500,000)	\$2,181,600
Categories of Expenditure						
Current Expense	0	0	500,000	500,000	(500,000)	0
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,092,200	2,681,600	(500,000)	2,181,600	0	2,181,600
Total	\$2,092,200	\$2,681,600	\$0	\$2,681,600	(\$500,000)	\$2,181,600
Other Data						

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee approve of the FY 2009 base budget as listed above and appropriated through the base budget bill.

- The Analyst recommends a FY 2009 base budget for Local Health Departments of \$2,181,600.