



2017 Federal Policy Positions

<p><i>Local Public Health Association of Minnesota</i></p> <p>2017 Federal Priority Issues</p>	<p>Policy Issue</p>	<p>LPHA Policy Positions</p>
	<p>A. Public Health Infrastructure</p>	<p>A1. LPHA supports federal funding that provides a stable base for the public health infrastructure including but not limited to the Prevention and Public Health Fund, the Preventive Health and Human Services Block Grant, the National Public Health Improvement Initiative and funding to meet accreditation requirements.</p> <p>A2. LPHA supports programs, such as loan repayment assistance and other funding or training that will encourage a strong and sufficient public health workforce to meet changing population needs.</p> <p>A3. LPHA supports efforts to end or lessen the impacts of sequestration on public health programs.</p>
	<p>B. Health Care Reform</p>	<p>B1. LPHA supports proposals that have the goal of providing access to health care coverage for all Minnesotans with a priority of providing coverage for infants and children.</p> <p>B2. LPHA supports policies and incentives for individuals to utilize preventive health services and other community resources rather than waiting to use urgent or emergency care.</p>

		<p>B3. LPHA supports policies and proposals that reduce health care administrative costs by streamlining of health care program/payers administrative requirements and adopting uniform benefit sets.</p> <p>B4. LPHA supports policies that would require hospitals to partner with local health departments in developing their Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and implementation strategies, and provide flexibility to align those processes.</p> <p>B5. LPHA supports improved data collection and analysis to better understand health disparities.</p> <p>B6. LPHA supports policies that expand the availability of quality long-term care insurance and other strategies that promote planning for future health care needs.</p> <p>B7. LPHA supports policies that improve health care coverage, reimbursement, and navigation options for inmates in state and local correctional facilities.</p> <p>B8. LPHA supports that federal health care reform prevention funding flow directly to the local level with a designated formula to local health departments.</p>
	<p>C. Maternal and Child Health</p>	<p>C1. LPHA supports direct funding to local health departments through existing infrastructure and funding mechanisms to expand or enhance their home visiting programs that include public health nurse assessments. This includes programs that utilize evidence-based models as well as those that are evidence-informed or recognized as an emerging or promising practice.</p> <p>C2. LPHA supports adequate, sustained funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children in Minnesota through evidence-based home visiting.</p> <p>C3. LPHA supports maintaining funding levels and removing barriers for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program applications, as well as</p>

		<p>continuing the use of adjunctive eligibility for WIC, and opposes efforts that would weaken or eliminate it. In addition, LPHA supports the improved interoperability of the WIC data system.</p> <p>C4. LPHA supports restoration of cuts to Title V funding.</p> <p>C7. LPHA supports federal funding for housing, transportation, education and employment assistance for pregnant and parenting families.</p>
	<p>D. Public Health Preparedness</p>	<p>D1. LPHA supports restoring funds previously cut or redirected from local public health emergency planning and response activities, including ongoing training and equipment purchase.</p> <p>D2. LPHA supports adequate funding for public health infrastructure that is essential for responding to public health emergencies.</p> <p>D3. LPHA supports aligning grant expectations with funding levels.</p>
	<p>E. Public Health Information Systems</p>	<p>E1. LPHA supports funding for the development and implementation of an electronic, interconnected system for the collection and exchange of health information.</p> <p>E2. LPHA supports assurance of opportunities for and support of local health department involvement in the evolution of health informatics and health information exchange, including Meaningful Use incentives.</p>
	<p>F. Chronic Disease Prevention and Promotion of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviors</p>	<p>F1. LPHA supports a long-term commitment of adequate funds to local health departments to enact policy and environmental change that results in health improvement and health care cost savings.</p> <p>F2. LPHA supports policies that encourage healthier community design, including safe environments that promote active living (e.g., Safe Routes to School).</p> <p>F3. LPHA supports federal efforts to enact policies that contribute to a healthier diet such as menu labeling, sodium reduction, trans fat reduction and reduced consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.</p> <p>F4. LPHA supports policies and programs to ensure access by all people</p>

		<p>to enough nutritious, affordable, safe and culturally-diverse food for an active, healthy life.</p> <p>F5. LPHA supports Dietary Guidelines that are up-to-date and evidence-based and opposes efforts to weaken the process or scientific rigor required to review and update the Guidelines.</p> <p>F6. LPHA supports requiring all currently subsidized federal and state programs that serve food to use nutrition standards based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans including schools, day care facilities, shelters and tax-supported residential settings.</p> <p>F7. LPHA supports requiring schools, daycare settings and tax-supported residential settings to provide access to physical activity that meets federal guidelines.</p> <p>F8. LPHA supports policies that protect children from exposure to secondhand smoke.</p> <p>F9. LPHA supports policies that reduce tobacco and tobacco- or smoking-related product use in children and adults, including the use of e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products (including menthol).</p> <p>F10. LPHA supports reauthorization of a federal Farm Bill that improves nutrition, environmental health, emergency preparedness, and community health including through expanded access to fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities and schools.</p> <p>F12. LPHA opposes efforts to weaken school nutrition standards for federal school meals programs.</p>
	<p>G. Communicable Disease Protection</p>	<p>G1. LPHA supports laws and policies that are based on the science of prevention and control of communicable diseases and opposes laws that are not.</p>

		<p>G2. LPHA supports increased funding reimbursement to local public health departments for the investigation, control and treatment of communicable disease outbreaks, particularly tuberculosis (latent and active).</p> <p>G3. LPHA opposes efforts that require local public health officials to report undocumented persons to the state or federal government.</p> <p>G4. LPHA supports federal funding for the provision of adult and child vaccines distributed to local health departments.</p> <p>G5. LPHA supports federal funding directly to local public health departments for the coordination of the health screens required of newly arrived individuals (refugee and immigrants).</p>
	<p>H. Environmental Health</p>	<p>H1. LPHA supports ongoing/reinstated funding for the Healthy Home and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, the only source of funding in Minnesota for lead poisoning monitoring, education and outreach. LPHA also supports the coordination of federal agencies that do this work.</p> <p>H2. LPHA supports ongoing funding for climate change planning work, including data collection at the state level, risk identification and state and local planning activities.</p> <p>H3. LPHA supports funding for biomonitoring efforts.</p> <p>H4. LPHA supports policies and funding that ensure safe and reliable drinking water and that ensure local public health departments develop and maintain the capacity to assist in the response to public health concerns related to contamination of water supplies by chemical or biological agents.</p>
	<p>I. Long-Term Care</p>	<p>I1. LPHA supports activities funded by the Federal Older Americans Act.</p>
	<p>J. Violence Prevention</p>	<p>J1. LPHA supports the development and implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies that address risk and protective factors for multiple forms of violence.</p>

		J2. LPHA supports a robust infrastructure for violence surveillance, data collection and research, as well as the evaluation of violence prevention initiatives.
	K. Mental and Chemical Health	<p>K1. LPHA supports policies and funding that address prevention of alcohol and drug abuse and support chemical health and recovery programming.</p> <p>K2. LPHA supports policies and funding that foster mental health awareness and improve mental health promotion programs.</p> <p>K3. LPHA supports efforts to address behavioral health issues in correctional settings.</p>