

Testimony

House Bill 1012

Senate Appropriations-Human Resources Division

Monday March 17, 2025

LaMoure County Public Health Department

Testimony on the Importance of Enhanced State Aid Support for Local Public Health

Chairperson Dever and members of Senate Appropriations, Human Resources
Division.

My name is Jessica Duffy, RN Administrator of LaMoure County Public Health Department (LCPHD).

The services provided by LaMoure County Public Health are important to the health of our communities. These services include being the largest provider of immunizations in the county, disease prevention, school nursing, nursing health maintenance, nurse to home visits, health education and drug alcohol and tobacco prevention programs, site for federally qualified primary health care (sliding fee schedule for uninsured individuals and emergency preparedness. These services are beneficial to our communities in promoting the health of the public, preventing disease outbreaks, and ensuring that all community members have access to preventive and other health services.

We receive funding from county general funds, state aid, state grants and federal passthrough grants. We also receive some income from immunization administration.

State aid and local tax dollars are the only flexible funding available. All other dollars are specifically directed to tasks associated with the grants we may or may not receive. Some of the state grant dollars like the immunization grant and PHEP for emergency planning do not come close to covering the time or supplies to continue those programs. Other grants like child and maternal health have matching dollars in which we need flexible non-grant funding to even apply for the grants. We also provide many services that do not have funding sources, but are much needed in our communities.

State aid is important for the continuation of public health services for our communities. This support enables local public health to purchase and store vaccines to offer immunization clinics, provide nursing services for our schools and in home visits to help our elderly or disabled population stay home safely. These funds also assist us to provide education for the public on heart health, suicide prevention, cancer prevention and so much more. State aid ensures we have the financial support to maintain and enhance our services.

Public Health is asking for an additional \$2,000,000.00 to be included in the NDHHS budget for the 2025-2027 biennium to be distributed to local public health statewide. This increase will allow public health to continue services and bridge the gap of increased costs associated with providing these essential services.

Thank you for considering supporting bill 1012 and supporting public health services for North Dakotans.

Respectfully,

Jessica Duffy, RN Administrator

LaMoure County Public Health Department