

Budget Priority

ARTICLE 6 PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

PROBLEM

The current limits on base grants and state aid for prevention and population health activities of county health departments and New York City are too low. Limited aid combined with increasing administrative cuts and disallowances are creating a cascading negative financial impact on local health departments and are eroding local public health infrastructure.

Stable and timely funding to support core public health services delivered by local health departments under Article 6 of the Public Health Law is necessary for the protection of all communities within New York State.

2017 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Executive Budget recommends consolidating 39 public health appropriations into four pools. Funding for each pool is then reduced by 20 percent.

The Executive Budget also reduces the General Public Health Work (GPHW) Reimbursement to NYC. Through the GPHW program, DOH reimburses New York City and county health departments for core public health services by providing base grants and covering 36 percent of the remaining net costs. The Budget reduces New York City's rate from 36 to 29 percent, generating a savings of \$11 million for the state in FY 2018. The 36 percent reimbursement rate is preserved for all other county health departments.

2017 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Senate and Assembly both reject the Executive proposal to consolidate 39 public health programs and cut spending for these programs by 20 percent, restoring \$24.6 million and discrete appropriations for these programs. Both the Senate and the Assembly rejected the Executive proposal to reduce New York City's public health reimbursement to 29 percent, from the current 39 percent, restoring \$11 million.

The Senate's Budget also accepts a NYSACHO proposal to make Maintenance of Effort reporting annually and across all core services, not each service individually.

COUNTY SOLUTION

Counties oppose both the proposed consolidation of public health appropriations and the reduction of the GPHW reimbursement to NYC.

Counties call on the Governor and Legislature to negotiate a final budget that:

1. Ends administrative actions that will result in further erosion of state aid to local health departments;
2. Increases base grants and ensure 100 percent reimbursement of local expenditures;
3. Increases beyond-base-grant state aid reimbursement rate from 36% to 38%; and
4. Provides 100% reimbursement for the first full year of any new and/or significantly expanded mandates emerging from law, rule or regulation.

For more information on the county position regarding this issue, visit www.nysac.org/health or call 518-465-1473 to speak to Jill Luther, NYSAC Program Administrator.