

1 **2022 NYSAC Legislative Conference**  
2 **Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health**  
3 **Resolution #1**

4 **Resolution in Support of the SFY 2023 Executive Budget Proposal**  
5 **Regarding Increased Public Health Infrastructure Funding and Urging the**  
6 **Adoption of NYSACHO’s PREPARE Act Funding Proposals**

7 **WHEREAS**, local health departments (LHDs) have been chronically underfunded by  
8 the state for over a decade; and

9 **WHEREAS**, New York State’s local public health workforce is responsible for  
10 promoting and protecting the health of New York’s communities in accordance with  
11 Article 6 of the Public Health Law; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the public health workforce—comprised of public health educators,  
13 analysts, epidemiologists, nurses, communicable disease control investigators, public  
14 health engineers and sanitarians, community health workers and other professionals –  
15 is responsible for preventing disease, protecting the health of New Yorkers, and keeping  
16 our communities safe; and

17 **WHEREAS**, most of the staff in New York State’s local health departments work to  
18 deliver one or more of six core public health services: community health assessment,  
19 communicable disease control, chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health  
20 services, emergency preparedness services, and, in 31 of the 58 LHDs, environmental  
21 health services; and

22 **WHEREAS**, these six core responsibilities are set forth in state statute to provide the  
23 minimum foundational public health responsibilities delivered by local health  
24 departments; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the number of LHD staff delivering Article 6 core services declined by  
26 seven percent between 2015 and 2020 based on data reported by local health  
27 departments to New York State; and

28 **WHEREAS**, during this same period, the population of the state increased by three  
29 percent, resulting in the statewide staff reductions and hampering the ability of local  
30 health departments to address the public health challenges facing their communities,  
31 including responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing environmental threats;  
32 and

33 **WHEREAS**, over a decade of disinvestment in public health has resulted in an aging  
34 workforce, with local governments seeing the departure of the next significant  
35 retirement age demographic; and

1 **WHEREAS**, shortages in fields such as nursing and engineering have resulted in  
2 longer periods for recruitment to fill vacancies, as well as competition from the private  
3 sector that impacts employee retention; and

4 **WHEREAS**, stagnant state aid, tax caps, funding eligibility restrictions, and other  
5 administrative barriers all undermine the public health infrastructure necessary to  
6 respond to emergencies; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO)  
8 has proposed the Public Health Reinvestment and Emergency Pandemic, Adaptability,  
9 Readiness and Efficiency (PREPARE) Act to assure that the public health infrastructure  
10 can respond to future emergencies, as well as every day public health threats and  
11 services

12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the New York State Association of  
13 Counties (NYSAC) supports the Executive budget proposal to increase the state aid for  
14 general public health work base grant for full service LHDs to \$750,000 or \$1.30 per  
15 capita and increase the base grant for partial service LHDs to \$577,500; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC supports the Executive Budget proposal  
17 to allow reimbursement of fringe expenses and request that the 50 percent fringe rate  
18 cap be removed; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC commends the Senate for proposing  
20 Article VII language to restore funding for New York City's public health services to 36  
21 percent reimbursement beyond the base grant under Article 6 state aid and calls on the  
22 Governor, Assembly, and Senate to include an appropriation in the Enacted Budget to  
23 provide for this increased reimbursement; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NYSAC urges the Governor and Legislature, in  
25 recognition of the valuable role that medical examiner programs play in public health  
26 responses such as the COVID-19 pandemic and opioid epidemic through the provision  
27 of death investigations and toxicology services and data, to provide funding for a 50  
28 percent state share for medical examiner services in the 2022-23 state budget; and

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in recognition of the lifelong impact of lead poisoning  
30 on children, NYSAC calls on the Governor and Legislature to increase funding for lead  
31 poisoning prevention grants to localities to fully fund the implementation of the 2019  
32 elevated blood lead level mandate in the 2022-23 state budget; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC strongly urges the Governor and state  
34 legislature adopt and fully fund the PREPARE Act; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
36 of New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
2 Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, the New York State  
3 Department of Health, and all those deemed necessary and proper.