

**2022 NYSAC Fall Seminar**

**Standing Committee on Public Health/Mental Health  
Resolution #1**

**Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the Implementation of the 2019  
Elevated Blood Lead Level Mandate**

**WHEREAS**, lead poisoning prevention activities are delivered by local health departments; and

**WHEREAS**, when the definition of elevated blood lead level (EBLL) was lowered from 10 to 5 ug/dL or greater, the State only allocated an additional \$9.7 million for Article Six state aid; and

**WHEREAS**, this investment falls short of the \$40 million needed to implement this work and protect children, thereby placing the majority of the cost burden (\$30.3 million) on the local tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, this estimated need is based on an average cost per case of nurse case management of \$713 and an average cost of \$2,123 per case for environmental management activities; and

**WHEREAS**, at the January 29, 2020, Lead Poisoning Prevention Advisory Council meeting, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) presented data on the first quarter of implementation that showed an additional 1,725 children between the ranges of 5-9 µg/dL required interventions; and

**WHEREAS**, while this highlights the importance of lowering the EBLL, it also represents the equivalent to 2.5 years of work occurring in a single quarter when compared to prior years; and

**WHEREAS**, counties recognize the extraordinary impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children and families at risk for lead exposure due to stay-at-home orders, remote learning, and barriers to attending pediatric appointments and access testing for lead screening; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) further lowered the recommendation to 3.5 µg/dL, which, if adopted by New York State, would cost an additional \$30 million to implement locally; and

**WHEREAS**, new and expanded duties placed on local health departments, as well as existing duties that are underfunded, may result in increased civil liability for our county governments; and

**WHEREAS**, county governments will allocate existing and new investments to support the lower EBLL through this program to secure and maintain the necessary staffing and other resources required to accomplish the goals set forth by the state mandate, while

1 also ensuring that New York State keeps its promise to property taxpayers through its  
2 enactment of a permanent property tax cap.

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4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New York State Association of  
5 Counties (NYSAC) calls on the Governor and State Legislature to increase the  
6 appropriation for NYSDOH’s Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to fully cover the cost  
7 of the current expanded mandate and any future policy changes; and  
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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NYSAC calls on the Governor and Legislature to  
10 distribute all funding necessary to local health departments through existing grant  
11 mechanisms to implement the expanded mandate; and  
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13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties  
14 of New York encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and  
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16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to  
17 the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Legislature, NYSDOH  
18 Commissioner Mary Bassett, and all others deemed necessary and proper.