

Local Health Protection Grant

Please support an increase of \$7 million for the public health grant most fundamental to protecting residents of Illinois: the Local Health Protection Grant.

THE LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION GRANT is the basic state funding source that supports essential public health services provided by local health departments to control disease and protect communities from environmental hazards. The purpose of the Local Health Protection Grant program is to support a statewide system of local health departments to assure the protection of the public through the provision of various health protection programs that:

- safeguard the public against communicable diseases
- provide for safe food and a potable water supply
- ensure proper private sewage disposal

AN INCREASE THE LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION GRANT IS NEEDED SO THAT BASIC LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH FUNCTIONS CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

- The Joint House/Senate Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas recommended in its final report that the Local Health Protection Grant line item appropriation be increased from \$17 million to \$24 million for all 94 urban and rural certified local health departments.
- The current level of Local Health Protection Grant is inadequate to support our efforts to safeguard our citizens.
- All local health departments in Illinois and therefore all residents of the state would benefit from an increase in Local Health Protection Grant.
- Local health departments comprising the Northern Illinois region currently receive an average of only \$0.86 per capita in Local Health Protection Grant funding. While other health departments in the state receive more per capita, none is adequately funded.
- Some of the recent issues that local health departments in the state have had to identify, monitor, and respond to include: inadequate emergency preparedness funding, natural disasters such as tornadoes, Hepatitis A incident, and food safety concerns involving outbreaks of *E. coli* from contaminated spinach and *Salmonella* from certain types of peanut butter and Mexican-style cheese. As new illnesses and threats emerge, the role of public health expands. Therefore, the time to increase public health state funding is now.
- Consistent with the Governor's *All Kids* and *Illinois Covered* initiatives, local health departments play a major role in assisting the uninsured and do so by providing prevention, screening, enrollment, and clinical services. More funding in the Local Health Protection Grant would enable local health departments to provide these and other essential services for the indigent.

PLEASE MAKE LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION GRANT A PRIORITY ON YOUR FY08 BUDGET LIST.

Line item under the Illinois Department of Public Health in the annual state budget: *For Local Health Protection Grants to Certified Local Health Departments for Health Protection Programs including, But Not Limited To, Infectious Diseases, Food Sanitation, Potable Water and Private Sewage.*

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