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Support HB 2640 and SB 1361 for an increase of \$10 million for the Local Health Protection Grant, the public health grant most fundamental to protecting residents of Illinois.

THE LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION GRANT is the basic state funding source that supports vital 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 current level of Local Health Protection Grant as a whole and on a per capita basis is inadequate to support actions to safeguard our citizens.
- The Joint House/Senate Task Force on Rural Health and Medically Underserved Areas recommended in its 2006 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.
- All local health departments in Illinois and therefore all residents of the state would benefit from an increase in Local Health Protection Grant.
- Some of the recent issues that local health departments in the state have had to identify, monitor, and respond to include: communicable disease outbreaks including norovirus, pertussis, and measles; natural disasters such as flooding; and food safety concerns involving outbreaks of *Salmonella* from peanut butter and serrano peppers and *E. coli* from contaminated spinach. As new illnesses and threats emerge, the role of public health expands. Therefore, the time to increase public health state funding is now.
- 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.
- The Local Health Protection Grant distribution formula is fair to both large and small local health departments because it distributes part of the fund by an equal minimum amount and allocates the remaining funds according to population and poverty levels.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 2640 AND SB 1361 AND MAKE THE LOCAL HEALTH PROTECTION GRANT A PRIORITY IN THE FY10 BUDGET.

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.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH CONSORTIUM:

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