

Res. 99-15

RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the mission of local public health in the United States is to assure the optimal health of communities by engaging in a wide range of activities that include

- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting healthy behaviors
- Responding to disasters and assisting communities in recovery
- Ensuring the quality and accessibility of health services¹; and

WHEREAS, fulfillment of this mission requires a strong underlying foundation that supports the planning, delivery and evaluation of essential public health services; and

WHEREAS, this foundation is a strong infrastructure that includes a skilled workforce, integrated electronic information and communication systems, effective organization and management, adequate resources and research; and

WHEREAS, this public health infrastructure includes all governmental and nongovernmental entities engaged in providing essential public health services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) strongly urges local, state and federal policymakers to assign high priority to the development and support of an effective public health infrastructure and to allocate resources explicitly to this objective; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NACCHO supports active partnership in communities among community members, health providers, public health officials, and other public and private organizations concerned with health, to build the public health infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all community health planning and evaluation include the use of measures of public health infrastructure capacity.

*Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors
November 7, 1999*

¹ Public Health Functions Steering Committee, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Public Health in America", 1995.

