



## Local Health Departments Build Strong Communities

People across the United States live better lives because of the work of local health departments. Local health departments lay the groundwork for the kinds of healthy choices that keep people from getting sick in the first place.

Budget pressures at the federal, state, and local levels have resulted in fewer trained professionals at the local level to protect the public and respond to health threats. Federal funding is essential to supporting the capacity and capabilities of local health departments.

### NACCHO Recommendations

To protect health and safety, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) recommends the following in fiscal year (FY) 2018:

#### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

##### PREVENTIVE HEALTH & HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

FY17: \$160 million

President's FY18 Budget: \$0

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$170 million

The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a vital source of funding for state and local health departments. This unique funding gives states the autonomy and flexibility to solve state problems and provide similar support to local communities, while still making states accountable for demonstrating the local, state, and national impact of this investment. NACCHO opposes the Administration's elimination of this program.

##### PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FY17: \$50 million

President's FY18 Budget: \$45 million

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$57 million

These funds support the CDC's fellowship and training programs that fill critical gaps in the public health workforce, provide on-the-job training, and

provide continuing education and training for the public health workforce. The Public Health Associate Program also places CDC-trained staff in the field and strengthens local and state health department capacity and capabilities. These funds also support the Epidemic Intelligence Service, the CDC's disease detectives.

##### EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LAB CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

FY17: \$195 million

President's FY18 Budget: \$155 million

FY18 NACCHO Request: \$195 million

The ELC grant program is a single grant vehicle for multiple programmatic initiatives that go to 50 state health departments, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles County, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC), Puerto Rico, and the Republic of Palau.

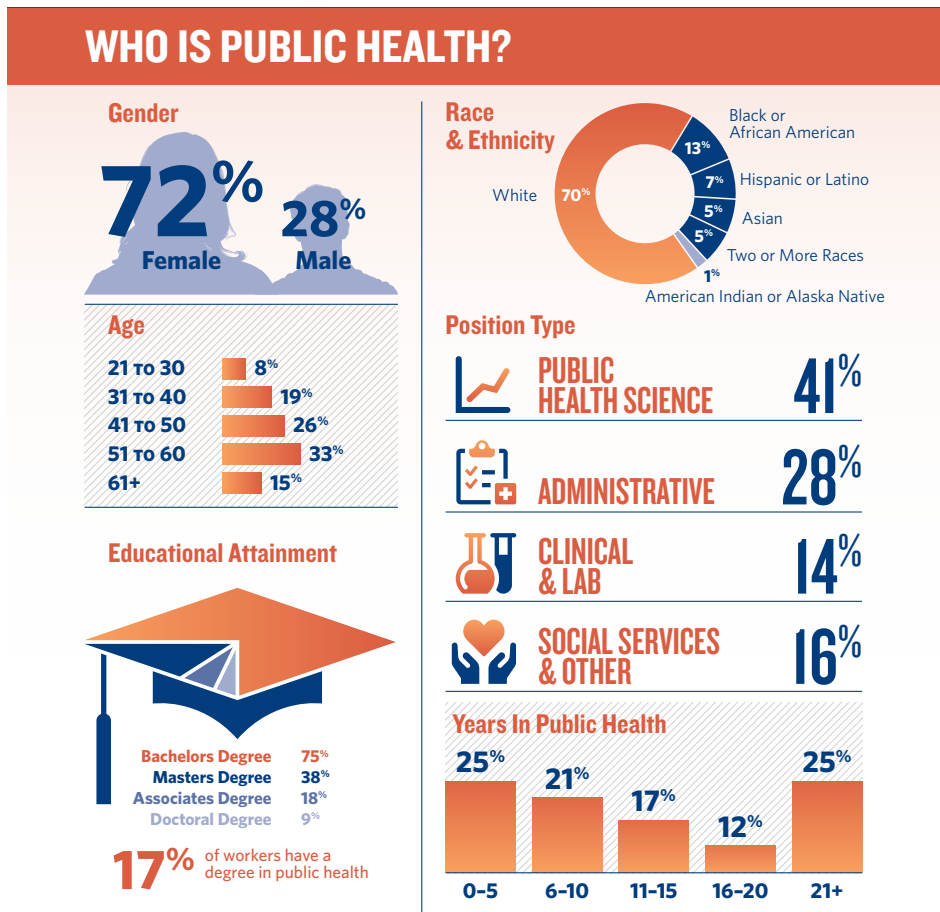
The ELC grants strengthen local and state capacity to perform critical epidemiology and laboratory work by detecting, tracking and responding to known infectious disease threats and maintaining core capacity to be the nation's eyes and ears on the ground to detect new threats as they emerge.

ELC funding was critical to the 2016 response to Zika virus, bolstering capacity at the ground level to detect disease and control its spread, sparing families from devastating birth defects.

## Local Health Departments Respond to Community Needs

Local health department staff provide a wide range of public health services. Public health threats and opportunities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century require a broad skill set within infectious and chronic disease prevention, emergency preparedness, public health information technology, and environmental health.

In 2014, one-quarter of the U.S. population was served by a local health department that experienced a budget cut.



*“CDC and public health departments cannot predict what new challenges we will face tomorrow or in the coming years. We know from experience how important it is for America to have highly trained, dedicated professionals ready to meet the next challenge.” —Dr. Patricia Simone, CDC Director of Division of Scientific Education and Professional Development*

Source: Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey, The deBeaumont Foundation and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

## About NACCHO

NACCHO is the voice of the more than 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. Learn more at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/>.

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**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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