Local health departments have been working tirelessly to combat the current global pandemic since early 2020. They remain a trusted source within communities, providing the essential services that are needed to protect the health and well-being of residents.

1. **Testing and Contact Tracing**

2. **Vaccine Coordination and Administration**

3. **Health Data Surveillance/Monitoring**

4. **Educating the Public and Allaying Concerns**

5. **Coordinating with Health Care Providers and Pharmacies**

6. **Working with Local Leaders, Schools, and Businesses**

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**Doing All of This Despite a Thinning Public Health Workforce**

20% of workforce capacity cut since 2008
HOW SHOULD CONGRESS HELP?

1. Continued funding for mitigation activities, including contact tracing, testing, and vaccine distribution with a requirement for equitable distribution of funds to local health departments.

2. Public tracking of disbursement of federal COVID-19 response funds down to the local health department level.

3. Ensure inclusion of local health department expertise in state and federal response planning; ensure full visibility and consultation with local health departments on activities in their borders.

4. Invest in the public health workforce through the creation of a public health loan repayment program.

5. Adopt long-term, sustainable funding support for public health infrastructure, including data modernization.

For more information please contact NACCHO Chief of Government and Public Affairs Adriane Casalotti at acasalotti@naccho.org