INVEST IN YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HOW TO INVEST

For more information on how you can invest in your public’s health, please contact the local health director in your jurisdiction, www.ncalhd.org/county.
of life.

Promote Better Health Throughout the Lifespan
We help young people stay well and develop into healthy adults. We offer education and services to help reduce chronic illness and complications. A healthy community leads to a more productive workforce, reduced healthcare costs, and a better quality of life.

Example
In 2010, North Carolina's infant mortality rate declined sharply to the lowest level in state history. The current rate represents an 11.4 percent drop in the state's infant mortality rate. The trend underscores the impact of public health programs aimed at improving birth outcomes and other services to enhance maternal and child health.

Uphold Policies We Know Improve Our Community’s Health
Better foods in our schools, more physical activity, and smoke-free places are examples of policies that have a major impact on the health of our children and neighbors. A healthy community has greater potential for positive economic growth.

Example
North Carolina’s smoke-free restaurants and bars law is both effective and popular. This policy change is contributing to a 21 percent decrease in emergency room visits for heart attacks, improving air quality by 60 percent in those counties, and earning high approval ratings in a recent poll.

ASSURE

Assure Access to Quality Health Care Services
We evaluate and augment the health service capacity of this community. Including: care for pregnant women, immunizations for vaccine-ageable populations, and dental care for children.

Example
Since 1877, board of health members and countless public health professionals have served our communities, providing public health, advanced planning in public health policy, developing public health programs, and promoting public health. Now more than ever, adequate financial support is necessary to make local health departments strong and ready to respond to community needs.

Executives Equipped with Training and Expertise to Lead a Local Health Department
Managing a health department requires strategic vision, detailed understanding of public health program requirements and best practices, and strong and sustained community relationships.

Example
Public health professionals are some of the experts within our communities to help ensure access to these and other public health services.

SOLID FOUNDATION

OF FUNDING AND EXPERTISE
A Solid Foundation of Funding and Expertise
Continued Local Support with Sustained and Flexible Funding
Promoting and protecting our community’s health is essential to quality of life and to the economic vitality of our communities. Now more than ever, adequate financial support is necessary to make local health departments strong and ready to respond to community needs.

Example
In many communities, local health departments are essential providers of primary care, maternal and child health services, and nutritional services for our working poor and for others without insurance. Facilities must be located within our communities to help ensure access to these and other public health services.

Health Information Technology to Better Target and Improve the Quality of Prevention and Patient Care and to Reduce Health Care Costs
Local health departments need powerful health information technologies to provide a true medical home for its patients, to avoid duplication of services, to enhance staff productivity, and to better target public health priorities.

Example
With Sustained and Flexible Funding
Collaboration with Community Partners to Ensure that Public Health Programs are Effective
Our schools, churches, businesses, nonprofits, and medical professionals are all partners who have a fundamental interest and role in maintaining the health of our community. Local health departments bring these partners together with better public health as their common purpose.

Continued Commitment from Every Level of Government to Support the Mission of Public Health
Strong support and coordination must be prioritized if local health departments are to continue providing many of the programs and services that have established North Carolina as a national model of public health.