



Washtenaw County Board of Health

A Resolution in Support of the Michigan Association of Local Public Health 2023 Legislative and Funding Priorities

Washtenaw County Board of Health
February 24, 2023

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) is organized to represent Michigan's 45 city, county, and district health departments and whose mission is to strengthen Michigan's system of local public health departments and local governing boards; and

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Health Department has been a longstanding member of MALPH and its Health Officer currently serves as President of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the MALPH 2023 legislative and funding priorities were approved by the Board of Directors at its January 9, 2023 meeting.

WHEREAS, public health in Michigan is governed by the [Michigan Public Health Code P.A. 368 of 1978 as amended](#) and provides the basis for public health organization, programming, and enforcement in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, there are several required services based in rule or statute that all local health departments in Michigan must provide, referred to as Essential Local Public Health Services including infectious disease control, sexually transmitted disease control and prevention, immunization, hearing and vision screening services, public water supply/private ground water supply, onsite sewage management and food protection.

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has yet to meet the statutory requirement (ref. P.A. 368) to provide a 50/50 cost contribution for the provision of mandatory Essential Local Public Health Services and it is estimate that an additional \$23.6 million would be needed to meet this requirement; and

WHEREAS, public health funding priorities identified by MALPH also include one-time funding of \$3 million for rural community health workers, \$40 million in flexible funding for local health departments to invest in capacity building and physical infrastructure improvements, a one-time allocation of \$250,000 to support a comprehensive cost analysis of Essential Local Public Health Services, and support of the annual funding recommendations as included in the MDHHS Public Health Resource Review to Ensure Michigan Drinking Water Quality, developed pursuant to Executive Directive 9; and

WHEREAS, policy and legislative priorities include protect the authority of local public health officers to respond quickly to emerging threats under the Michigan Public Health Code, creation and implementation of a statewide sanitary code, update Michigan's Food Law (Act 92 of 2000) to adopt the current FDA model food code (10th ed. 2022), and promote statewide licensure of environmental health sanitarians employed by local governmental health departments; and



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WHEREAS, in a report entitled [*The Future of Public Health: A Synthesis Report for the Field*](#) released in November 2021, funding and public health policy and law were among the core priorities identified for change or improvement needed to build a modern and more effective U.S. public health system capable of protecting and improving the public's health in a post-pandemic environment; and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Washtenaw County Board of Health hereby supports the 2023 policy, legislative and funding priorities approved by the MALPH Board of Directors and will advocate with the Washtenaw County Health Officer in order to advance these priorities to benefit local public health services in Washtenaw County and throughout Michigan.