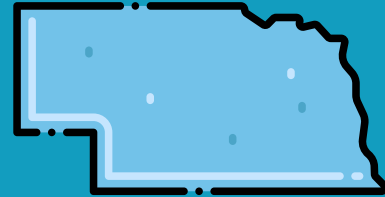


Nebraska Legislative Bill 692

The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act



Building a Statewide Local Public Health System in Nebraska



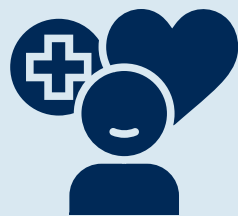
In 1998, a landmark agreement was reached between the tobacco industry and 46 states. In this Master Settlement Agreement, the tobacco industry agreed to make annual payments to the states to compensate for health care costs associated with smoking related illnesses.



In 2001, the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) was passed. This Act established the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund which has been used to support a variety of health care initiatives, including local public health departments.



LB 692 was the major impetus that led to the development of the public health system in Nebraska that we know today.



In 2000, only 22 of the state's 93 counties were served by local public health departments. As a result, many people in Nebraska were not benefiting from public health services such as comprehensive health needs assessments, health education services, and new policies and programs to address community health needs.



When the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act was passed in 2001, 16 new multi-county health departments were created and now cover all counties in the state. Each multicounty health department must have at least 3 contiguous counties and 30,000 people.



For the first time, dedicated state funds were provided to local public health departments on an annual basis. Each health department receives \$100,000 to pay for basic infrastructure expenses and the remaining funds are distributed on a population-based formula.

About LB 692

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve equity, the Essential Public Health Services actively promote policies, systems, and overall community conditions that enable optimal health for all and seek to remove systemic and structural barriers that have resulted in health inequities. Such barriers include poverty, racism, gender discrimination, ableism, and other forms of oppression. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve optimal health and well-being.



ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #1

Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #2

Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #3

Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #4

Strengthen, support, and motivate communities and partnerships to improve health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #5

Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #6

Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #7

Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #8

Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #9

Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement

ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE #10

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Key Feature

A key feature of the legislation was to allow community members the opportunity to select which contiguous counties would be included in each department.

Implementation of Public Health Services

The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, is responsible for assisting local public health departments in implementing the 3 core public health functions and 10 essential services.

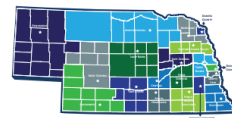
Annual Reports

All eligible local public health departments are required to prepare an annual report each fiscal year. These reports identify how the funds were spent to meet the ten essential public health services, including a description of their specific programs and activities

Coverage

A total of 18 public health departments covering 92 counties are eligible to receive funds under a portion of the Health Care Funding Act.

NEBRASKA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



Local Public Health in Nebraska

Nebraska Health Care Funding Act

Nebraska's local health departments (LHDs) act as communities' Chief Health Strategists by assuring that community partners are working together to improve and protect the health and well-being of all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Health Care Funding Act (LB 692) was passed in 2001 by the Nebraska Legislature. This Act provides funding to LHDs through the County Public Health Aid Program (Reb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1628.08) and requires all eligible LHDs to prepare an annual report that provides highlights from selected activities and programs that were achieved throughout the fiscal year to fulfill statutory obligations. These reports do not reflect the totality of the work performed by LHDs. To learn more about the work of any individual LHD, visit their website or reach out to their director. Contact information can be found on the website of the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD) [here](http://www.nalhd.org).

The Three Core Functions of Public Health as cited in the Health Care Funding Act:

1. **Assessment:** Collect and analyze information to better understand health issues facing Nebraska communities.
2. **Policy Development:** Work with partners to apply data, educate the public, and develop programs and policies - all to address and prevent illness, disease, and disability.
3. **Assurance:** Promote effective coordination and use of community resources to protect the health and well-being of Nebraskans.



Compiled with support from
Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors

www.nalhd.org