

## FPHS Costing & Capacity Assessment

In being good stewards of public money to address community priorities, high-performing public health departments use data-driven, evidence-based practices to deliver public health protections in their communities with efficiency and effectiveness. This requires a strong foundation of public health infrastructure.

The national Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) model outlines the modern infrastructure necessary for public health departments. Consisting of a set of capabilities and programs that must be available in every health department, the model lays the groundwork for strong and productive communities.

### **The WI FPHS Costing & Capacity Assessment**

The WI FPHS Costing & Capacity Assessment provides a snapshot of the current state of local public health departments to identify the resources, investments, and capacities needed to achieve full implementation of a strong public health infrastructure to the benefit of all Wisconsin communities. Health Departments that complete this assessment will develop data on 1) how their current programs and resources relate to or correlate with the FPHS, 2) the staffing and funds needed to fully implement the FPHS, and 3) robust information about significant gaps in services that can be used for planning and resource allocation.

**The Foundational  
Public Health Services  
model articulates the  
baseline infrastructure  
required for public  
health departments to  
offer the resources and  
protections needed to  
ensure healthy  
Wisconsin communities**

## Benefits of achieving a FPHS infrastructure in Wisconsin

Like all infrastructure, without proactive maintenance and deliberate efforts to evolve with communities, public health infrastructure tends to degrade over time. This impacts the ability of the statewide public health system to respond to health threats, natural disasters, and address chronic conditions that affect the health status of a community, health care spending, and economic vitality.

To meet this challenge, Wisconsin needs a strong, well-funded public health system, including both local governmental health agencies in order to collectively assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.<sup>1</sup> But Wisconsin is lagging behind. In 2021, Wisconsin ranked 42nd out of 50 states with the lowest budget funding for public health investing only \$17/person when compared to the median investment of \$36/person in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

Achieving the FPHS state-wide will support this collective effort and:

- Ensure people have accessible, high quality public health resources and live in healthy communities
- Make public health departments better equipped to efficiently work together and with local organizations to address shared priorities across municipalities, counties, and regions using up-to-date strategies to improve the efficient use of time and resources
- Guide investments in prevention efforts that will help the state avoid and/or lessen the disruption of current and future emergencies, and/or epidemics, and focus on chronic issues so as to avoid unnecessary health differences across WI communities
- Create agile and efficient programs able to serve their communities 24/7, including during emergencies, in ways that fit the needs of the state and its diverse regions
- Make Wisconsin health departments more competitive for federal, national, and local grants as well as aid in the process to become a nationally accredited public health department, another avenue that opens doors to seek and gain more resources to the benefit of the people of Wisconsin



<sup>1</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/articleabstract/382688>

<sup>2</sup> <http://statehealthcompare.shadac.org/rank/117/perpersonstate-public-health-funding> Data not available for 5 states in 2021.

**Note:** \$17/person refers only to state budget funding. When federal and state funds are combined, Wisconsin invests only \$72/person/yr in public health, which is tied for the worst per capita funding of any state.

**Chart source:** [https://cdnvmaws.com/www.wpha.org/resource/resmgr/2023/pa\\_committee/wpha\\_walhdab\\_budgetprioritie.pdf](https://cdnvmaws.com/www.wpha.org/resource/resmgr/2023/pa_committee/wpha_walhdab_budgetprioritie.pdf)