

# Local Public Health Services

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Protecting & Improving  
the Health of Iowans



While the State of Iowa sets minimum immunization requirements for attendance at daycares, preschools and schools, the work of auditing those complex records and enforcing compliance falls to Local Public Health and the Local Board of Health. The job of maintaining acceptable immunization records usually falls to the school nurse. However, most private schools, daycares and preschools do not have a school nurse to maintain and evaluate the records prior to an immunization audit. The task then goes to administrative personnel unfamiliar with immunization records and requirements. To address the issue, local public health staff in Sioux County implemented a two-pronged approach. First, they developed two Immunization handbooks: one for daycares and pre-K facilities and a second for K-12 schools. Every daycare, preschool and school in their county received a handbook, which explained the immunization requirements for enrollment as defined by Iowa Code. As a second step, staff developed a policy for following up with students/families whose records are missing or incomplete. The policy included the development of a corrective action plan for facilities, when needed.

These steps helped local public health staff achieve their goal of increasing understanding of immunization requirements and follow-up. After distributing the immunization handbooks, staff noted several positive outcomes. First, they saw many of the private schools sign up for access to Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS). Facilities can now view and print records or appropriate certificates, if not available from the parents. They also saw an increase in communication between the daycares/preschools/schools and their public health agency; more and more facilities are now reaching out with questions about immunization requirements, record-keeping and enforcement. Additionally, these new efforts help school officials have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding Iowa's immunization requirements. Local public health is beginning to see more school administrators enforce the requirement of acceptable immunization records for enrolled students at their facilities.

**Did you know?** Local public health services exist in all of Iowa's 99 counties and local boards of health assure that all communities have services that help promote healthy Iowans and healthier communities.

## Why are Local Public Health Services important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- All Iowans deserve a local public health system that:
  - ✓ supports local capacity to assess, plan and ensure a basic standard of service delivery, and
  - ✓ serves as the mechanism to continually assess changing health needs and develop strategies to address those needs and achieve local health improvements.
- Increases the capacity of the local board of health to safeguard the health and wellness of communities by:
  - ✓ providing leadership in engaging community stakeholders to support health promotion and preventive services, and
  - ✓ providing public health services that promote healthy behaviors in individuals, groups and communities to prevent and reduce illness, injury and disease, and
  - ✓ providing gap-filling services when there are no other providers.

## Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

Promote healthy behaviors

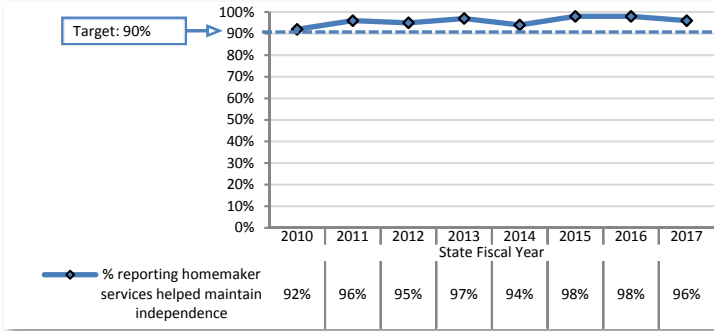
## What do we do?

IDPH supports local public health services through:

- Grant funding for local programs that:
  - ✓ Strengthen the public health infrastructure in supporting local needs assessment and community organizing processes to encourage community change for improved health;
  - ✓ Help Iowans engage in healthy behaviors, including promoting health & wellness where Iowans live, work and play; and
  - ✓ Improve access to health services for those who "fall through the cracks" and often have no other options, including
    - In-home skilled nursing; home care aide; homemaker; health maintenance; and immunizations for children and adults when there is no other funding source.
- Regional consultants provide education, technical assistance, and support to 101 local boards of health and local public health agencies in all 99 counties. Support is directed to resolving community health issues, problems or concerns; building and maintaining the knowledge and skills necessary to provide local public health services and build healthier communities; acting as catalysts for sharing best practices; and providing the linkage between federal, state and local public health partners at a time when the health care system is experiencing tremendous change and health reform efforts continue to evolve.

## How do we measure our progress?

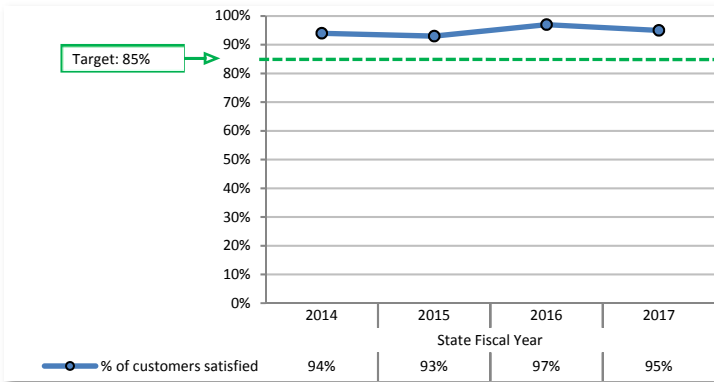
### 1 Percent of clients who report that homemaker services helped them to remain in their home.



Data Source: LPH service contracts End of Year Report. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** Our target is to achieve at least 90% each year. In SFY2017, we exceeded our target with 96%.

### 2 Percent of customers (Administrators/Directors of authorized agencies) who are satisfied with Regional Community Health Consultant (RCHC) services.



Data Source: LPH Customer Survey. Data are available annually.

**How are we doing?** We have set a target of achieving at least 85% each year and have exceeded this goal. For SFY2017, 95% of customers indicated they were satisfied with RCHC services.

## What can Iowans do to help?

1. All Iowans should be familiar with their local public health agency and the services provided.
2. All Iowans can support local public health policies and plans.
3. All Iowans should consider serving as a board of health member.
4. All Iowans can create a personal and family health improvement plan.

## Expenditures

**Local Public Health Liaison:** general fund and federal funds. State funds are used for maintenance of effort match for the PHHS Block Grant. K09-0957; 0153-0958

**Local Boards of Health:** general fund K09-0935(50%)/0959

**Healthy Aging:** general fund K11-1111

|                    | State Fiscal Year 2016 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2017 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2018 Estimate |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| State funds        | \$8,837,712                   | \$8,562,483                   | \$8,275,370                     |
| Federal funds      | \$370,250                     | \$467,249                     | \$467,262                       |
| <b>Total funds</b> | <b>\$9,207,962</b>            | <b>\$9,029,732</b>            | <b>\$8,742,632</b>              |
| FTEs               | 6.95                          | 7.22                          | 9.30                            |

**Note:** Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.