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2026 Impact Report

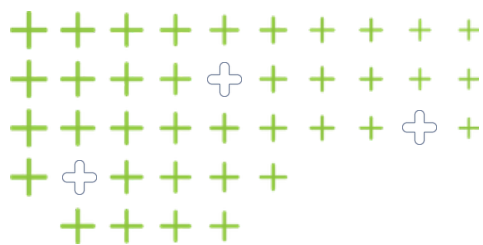
NALHD
Nebraska Association *of*
Local Health Directors



NALHD makes it easier for Nebraska's local health departments to learn, act, and move forward together.



2026 Impact Report



800 S 13th St. #100
Lincoln, NE 68508
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nalhd.org



The Impact



Letter from NALHD's Director

**Built by local public health.
Working for every Nebraskan.**

What happens when local public health works together?

- + More resources reaching more communities.
- + More capacity, tools, & people working together.
- + More support for the services Nebraskans rely on.

Moving forward, together.

- + 2026 Legislative Session
- + 2026 Nebraska Public Health Conference

Letter from NALHD's Director

Dear Friends,

Nebraska's public health leaders are carrying extraordinary responsibility in an increasingly difficult environment. They are expected to protect community wellbeing, respond to emerging threats, navigate political pressure, and keep systems functioning—often with limited resources and little margin for error.

At NALHD, our role is simple to say and hard to do: make it easier for local public health leaders to do their jobs well.

In a moment when public health work is often misunderstood—or mischaracterized—we focus relentlessly on what actually helps: strong relationships, shared infrastructure, trusted communication, and steady advocacy for the conditions local leaders need to succeed. We believe public health works best when it is practical, collaborative, and grounded in local reality.

The impact described in this report is not about NALHD alone—it reflects what happens when funders, policymakers, and system partners strategically support the public health system, so that individual public health leaders are not left to shoulder growing demands alone. The result: Nebraska's public health system remains strong, practical, and responsive.

Thank you for the big and small ways you support NALHD's work in our local public health system.

Sincerely,



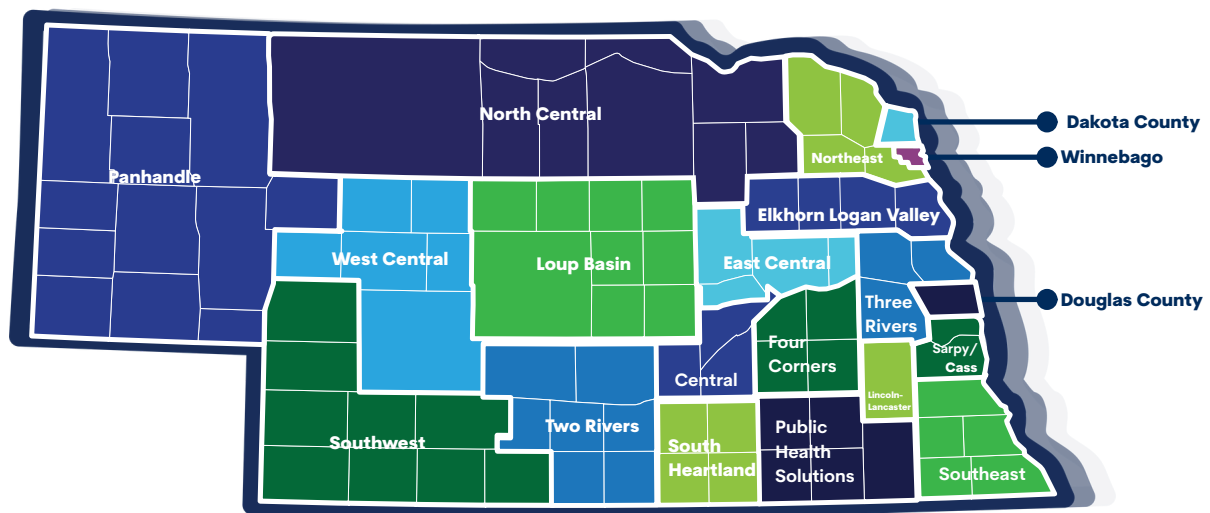
Susan Bockrath, MPH, CHES

Executive Director

Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors



Built by local public health. Working for every Nebraskan.



Nebraska's governmental public health system works differently from most states.

Here, nineteen local health districts (LHDs) cover the state, serving between 1 and 12 counties each. They support kids and families, foster healthy communities, and strengthen the conditions that help Nebraskans thrive and be well.



Local health departments understand their communities better than anyone—but many challenges are too complex to tackle alone. The local public health system needed a neutral entity to bring in funding that health departments might not access individually, build shared capacity through people and tools, and speak with one voice on public health issues.

To meet that need, **local public health directors created NALHD**. We connect leaders with the partnerships, resources, and coordination that boost their work to reach farther and to strengthen public health across the entire state.

Today, **NALHD is a trusted convener, connector, and problem solver within the local public health system**. We help health departments coordinate efforts, share tools, and act together on statewide issues while staying grounded in the needs of their own communities.

93 Counties

Public health services reach all 93 counties in Nebraska.

NALHD members deliver prevention, protection, and access to care through programs shaped by community needs.

15 Years

NALHD brings 15 years of organizational excellence.

Made possible through consistent partnership across Nebraska's public health system.

20 Members

NALHD includes 19 local & 1 tribal health departments.

Each department responds to the needs of its communities while contributing to a stronger statewide public health system.

1 Statewide Voice

NALHD is the state association for local public health.

As the state's only association of its kind, we represent shared priorities in statewide and national conversations.

What happens when local public health works together?

+ More resources reaching more communities.

When local health departments (LHDs) act together, they gain access to funding that simply doesn't exist for them individually. NALHD helps bring those resources into Nebraska and out into communities, so local teams have what they need to plan, respond, and grow.

\$11.5 million

++++
+ +++

in multi-year contributions passed through to LHDs since 2022

\$1.5 million

++
+++

in direct federal awards secured and passed through to LHDs between 2022 and 2025

\$2.44 million

++++
+ +++

of NALHD's budget will be directly passed through to LHDs in 2026

+ More Capacity, Tools, & People Working Together.

Public health is powered by people and the tools they rely on. NALHD helps local teams build networks, share best practices and tools, and remain effective whether through shared learning, statewide coordination, or access to systems they couldn't maintain on their own.

15+ Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice connect professionals to share resources, solve problems, and learn together. NALHD convenes these groups to help keep Nebraska's public health workforce supported, especially as teams navigate heavier workloads with fewer staff.



161+ LHD Staff access data tools

NALHD provides tools such as Qualtrics and mySidewalk that simplify data collection, management, analysis, and visualization. Our efforts support a more consistent, coordinated use of data across public health partners.



1.6M Nebraskans reached

NALHD supports communication across the state by offering shared media tools, design and translation support, and coordinated campaigns. Our Public Health is For You campaign reached 1.6 million Nebraskans and generated 9.7 million impressions.



"The partnership and access these tools provide are huge for local health departments like ours. They strengthen our ability to listen to our communities, evaluate our work, and make informed decisions that improve public health."

-Terra Uhing, Executive Director
Three Rivers Public Health Department



+ More Support for the Services Nebraskans Rely On

Nebraska's public health services are strongest when local teams are supported by a coordinated system. When local health departments, state partners, and academic institutions are aligned, essential programs don't just continue — they grow, adapt, and reach more families.

By serving as a trusted partner and fiscal conduit, **NALHD enables local health departments to access funding and infrastructure that would be difficult—or even impossible—to secure on their own.** This collective approach has helped sustain core services like oral health and community health worker programs, ensuring they remain available, connected, and responsive across Nebraska.

63% of Nebraskans believe that the entire community benefits from public health.*

*From NALHD's Public Health is For You campaign research (2024)

Oral Health Services

Local health departments delivered oral health screenings through school and community-based programs, supported by NALHD and by multi-year federal grants to the state. These services reached more than 80% of Nebraska's counties.



75,700+

oral health screenings delivered by NALHD-funded LHDs, in schools and community settings statewide



"NALHD enables my rural health department to seek funding, pursue innovative opportunities, and engage in partnerships that improve health outcomes while reducing long-term costs. NALHD also provides training and resources to strengthen my team's skills to better protect and promote the well-being of all Nebraskans."

-Heidi Kuklis, MPH, Executive Director
North Central District Health Department



Community Health Workers

Fifty-one Community Health Workers (CHWs) in 14 local and tribal health departments (83%) have completed NALHD's skill-building series based on national standards, strengthening the local workforce that helps families navigate resources, connect to care, and address the social and behavioral needs affecting health. We are also working to establish a training endorsement for CHWs to help Nebraska communities unlock federal dollars for local providers and stabilize and grow local talent in public health and health care.

83%

of CHW workforce at LHDs, statewide, strengthened through NALHD training



Environmental Health Services

Under NALHD's coordination, environmental health staff are better trained and more aligned in responding to lead exposure, air quality concerns, and safe drinking water so families get consistent support across the state.



\$14.9M

in HUD funding secured by LHDs engaged in NALHD's environmental health training and support

Moving Forward, Together

Advocacy in Action

Each of Nebraska’s legislative sessions bring new opportunities to protect foundational public health services and to strengthen the partnership between local health departments and statewide decision-makers. NALHD will continue to support directors as they align on shared priorities, prepare clear, consistent messages, and speak with a unified voice on issues that shape the health and well-being of Nebraskans. By elevating local expertise, we help ensure policies reflect the realities, needs, and strengths of communities across the state.

NALHD’s advocacy focuses on ensuring Nebraskans are served by a consistently funded, strong local public health system.

In the 2026 session, we are highlighting the first 25 years of the Health Care Cash Fund—Nebraska’s wise approach to investing the state’s share of Tobacco Master Settlement dollars into improving the health of Nebraskans.



“Through NALHD, our local health department has a meaningful voice in statewide decision-making and the development of sound public health policy. Membership ensures we are connected to a strong, collaborative network of partners across Nebraska.”

—Laura McDougall, MS, Executive Director
Four Corners Health Department



Nebraska's Annual Public Health Conference

NALHD hosts the Nebraska Public Health Conference (NEPHC), which continues to grow as a hub for learning, partnership, and innovation. This annual event brings together 400+ statewide partners and public health professionals to learn together and shape solutions that support Nebraskan families and communities.



2X Nebraska Public Health Conference (NEPHC) participation has doubled since 2019

The work of public health doesn't end here. As Nebraska moves into a new legislative session, a new year of statewide collaboration, and a new year of opportunities (including as part of Nebraska's implementation of the **Rural Health Transformation Program**), NALHD will continue elevating local voices and ensuring that public health leaders have a seat at every table where decisions are made.

We invite partners, funders, and community members to stay connected with us as we work together to protect essential services and strengthen the system that serves all Nebraskans. Together, we'll keep building a system where communities are heard, essential services thrive, and every Nebraskan benefits.





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