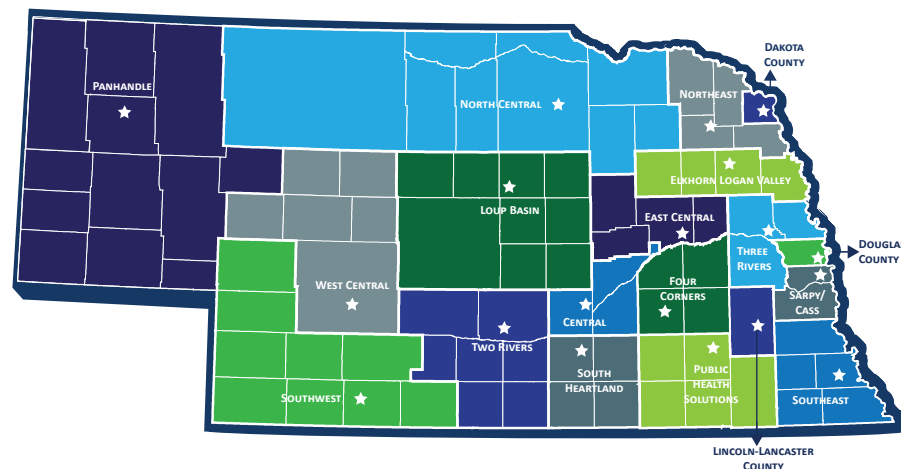


NEBRASKA LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



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 (Neb. 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](#).

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.

LHDs in Nebraska address the Three Core Functions of Public Health through their work providing Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in the areas of maternal, child, & family health, communicable disease control, access to & linkage with clinical care, chronic disease and injury prevention, and environmental public health.



Examples of work in each of the FPHS areas are featured in the individual health department reports and include:

- All LHDs continue their work monitoring and following up on thousands of cases of reportable diseases including tuberculosis, rabies, hepatitis C, campylobacter, norovirus, salmonella, and others.
- All LHDs lead regional community health assessment and planning efforts — many of these resulting in regional work to improve access to healthcare and behavioral health services.
- Rural LHDs are collaborating with partners to provide preventive oral health services to children in schools and other community settings. In Lincoln-Lancaster County, the health department is a major provider of dental services to Medicaid members.
- LHDs deliver and/or support local programs to help Nebraskans control diabetes and high blood pressure, prevent falls, and address substance use disorders.
- LHDs' work in environmental health includes helping families take steps to eliminate ongoing exposures in cases of elevated blood lead levels in children; ensuring safe drinking water in homes and schools; providing information and tools to help Nebraskans address high levels of radon in their homes; inspecting food establishments; monitoring air quality; and collecting and disposing of household hazardous waste.
- Many LHDs are expanding the reach of the highly effective Healthy Families America home visitation programs, to foster lifelong health by supporting infants, children, and families and preventing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
- Several LHDs support food security for children and families through WIC programs.

Leveraging Other Funds

For over 22 years, funds from the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act have served as the financial foundation for LHDs. The proportion of individual LHDs' revenue derived from the Nebraska Health Care Cash Fund and the Nebraska General Fund averaged 13% across all LHDs (range from 3% to 40%) according to data collected by NALHD in FY 2021-22.

In order to maintain operations, to meet their statutory obligations, and to meet the needs and priorities of their communities, LHDs must regularly pursue funding from many sources. LHDs rely on federal pass-through awards through Nebraska DHHS, and other State agencies to support much of their work. A few LHDs also receive private or direct federal grants and collect fees and reimbursements for limited services. Very few receive significant local funding.

None of the work of local public health departments would be possible without the foundational resources provided by the Legislature via the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act. These and other funds continue to be necessary to ensure Nebraska’s readiness for future small and large-scale public health threats.

Organizational Coverage

As of June 30, 2023, a total of 18 LHDs covering 92 counties were eligible to receive funds under a portion of the Nebraska Health Care Funding Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-1626 through 71-1636. The list of eligible local health departments and their affiliated counties is shown in Table 1. Dakota County has a single county health department that does not meet the population requirements of the Health Care Funding Act. Nebraska DHHS’s Division of Public Health and other local public health partners continue to support the work of all LHDs.

Table 1. Eligible Nebraska local health departments and affiliated counties.

Nebraska Health Departments	Nebraska Counties Included	Number of Counties
Central District Health Dept.	Hall, Hamilton, Merrick	3
Douglas County Health Dept.	Douglas	1
East Central District Health Dept.	Boone, Colfax, Nance, Platte	4
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Dept.	Burt, Cuming, Madison, Stanton	4
Four Corners Health Dept.	Butler, Polk, Seward, York	4
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Dept.	Lancaster	1
Loup Basin Public Health Dept.	Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler	9
North Central District Health Dept.	Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, Rock	9
Northeast Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Wayne	4
Panhandle Public Health District	Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux	12
Public Health Solutions	Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Saline, Thayer	5
Sarpy/Cass Health Dept.	Sarpy, Cass	2
South Heartland District Health Dept.	Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster	4
Southeast District Health Dept.	Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson	5
Southwest Nebraska Public Health Dept.	Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Perkins, Red Willow	9
Three Rivers Public Health Dept.	Dodge, Washington, Saunders	3
Two Rivers Public Health Dept.	Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Gosper, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps	7
West Central District Health Dept.	Arthur, Hooker, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas	6

Annual Report Time Frame

As required by statute, LHDs funded under the Health Care Funding Act submit a report to Nebraska DHHS in October, for inclusion in the full Annual Report submitted by Nebraska DHHS on December 1, 2023. These Annual Reports cover July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023.