



RESOLUTION # 16-8/26

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 8-11

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: ☒
For: 30
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

**HEALTH AND
HUMAN
SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

ACTION
Adopted: yes
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE STATE FUNDING FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, Local health departments (LHDs) are legally required to provide a core set of public health services under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 251 and Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter DHS 140, and other applicable statutes; and

WHEREAS, responsibilities of LHDs have expanded significantly in recent years due to emerging public health threats, workforce shortages, and increasing community health needs; and

WHEREAS, local health departments rely significantly on a combination of limited state aids, categorical grants, and local property tax levy to fund these mandated services; and

WHEREAS, current state funding mechanisms for public health are largely outdated, not indexed to inflation, and do not reflect the true cost of delivering foundational public health services; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin currently ranks 49th lowest in state dollars dedicated to public health per person (https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PH_funding); and

WHEREAS, Public health initiatives consistently deliver high returns on investment (ROI), with recent data showing a median ROI of 14.3 to 1, often saving \$14 in medical and societal costs for every \$1 spent (<https://www.pew.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2025/07/08/public-health-initiatives-deliver-big-returns-on-investment>); and

WHEREAS, reliance on short-term, restricted, or competitive grant funding creates instability and limits long term planning for LHDs; and

WHEREAS, counties bear a disproportionate share of the financial burden for providing foundational public health services to Wisconsin residents, placing additional pressure on local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a strong and adequately funded public health system is essential to protect the health, safety, and economic stability of Wisconsin residents and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors supports continuing to build and retain public health infrastructure in Wisconsin through increased and flexible funding dedicated to local county health departments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a funding model should:

- Provide increased General Purpose Revenue (GPR) support for local health departments
- Include automatic inflationary adjustments
- Allow for flexible use of funds to meet local needs
- Reduce reliance on short-term, restricted, and/or competitive grants

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors recognizes public health as a core governmental function and supports sustained investment in public health services to ensure consistent service delivery across all jurisdictions throughout Wisconsin; and

RE: SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE STATE FUNDING FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that La Crosse County Board of Supervisors supports the Wisconsin Counties Association in advocating for policies that reduce the reliance on local property tax levy to fund foundational public health services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of Wisconsin, members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and all Wisconsin counties.

FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact

Date: 8-11-26

Dallas - Mack
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 8-11-26

Jeff Buchholz
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.				Requested By: Jane Klekamp
Fin. Director	<u>h</u>	<u>JK</u>		Date Requested: July 17, 2026
Corp. Counsel				Drafted By: Corporation Counsel
Board Chair				

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 20 Day of August, 2026

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 20th day of August 2026.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk