

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.
Benzie Community Resource Center - Ingemar Johansson Conference Room
6051 Frankfort Highway
Benzonia, MI 49616**

or

Electronically, via conference call

To participate, dial: (213) 282-9788 and enter Conference ID: 855 717 643#

This is a Regular Meeting of the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Board of Health. Public Comment is encouraged at the beginning and end of the meeting. An individual's comment time may be limited based on the discretion of the Chair.

Call to Order/Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board of Health Meeting from October 22, 2025.

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment Period

1. Health Officer Update – Dan Thorell
2. Personnel and Finance Committee Report-Personnel and Finance Committee
 - A. Accounts Payable – Action
 - B. Health Officer Annual Evaluation Discussion
3. Staff Reports
 - A. Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson
 - B. Personal Health – Michelle Klein
 - C. Environmental Health Director – Eric Johnston
 - D. Administrative- Shelley Jablon

Public Comment Period

Board Comments

Adjourn

Personnel and Finance Comm. Meeting- November 19, 2025 1:00 pm
Benzie Community Resource Center, Ingemar Johansson Conference Room or
Electronically via conference call:
(213) 282-9788 and enter Conference ID: 855 717 643 #

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 2p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center
8527 E. Government Center
Suttons Bay, MI 49682**

Vice-Chairperson Trigg called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Walter – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. David Quimby – Leelanau County Member at Large
Christina Trigg – Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large -came at 2:05pm

Members Excused: Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Eric Johnston – Director of Environmental Health
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health
Dan Thorell – Health Officer
Shelley Jablon – Director of Administrative Services

Staff Excused: Dr. Joshua Meyerson – Medical Director

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the September 24, 2025 Regular Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Motion By: Walter to approve the September 24, 2025 BOH meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded By: Sauer

Voice Vote: 4 yeas 0 nay 1 excused 0 absent Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Sauer to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded By: Walter

Voice Vote: 4 yeas 0 nay 1 excused 0 absent Motion carried

Public Comment: None

Health Officer Update- Dan Thorell

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Sauer to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$520,122.87.

Seconded By: Walter

Roll Call Vote: Walter- yeas, Quimby - yeas, Kuiper - yeas, Trigg – yeas, Sauer -yeas
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused 0 absent Motion carried

Environmental Health

Motion By: Walter moved that the Board of Health approve an adjustment to the temporary campground fees listed in the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department fee schedule, to reflect the recent increase in the State of Michigan's portion of the temporary campground permit fee.

Seconded By: Sauer

Roll Call Vote: Walter- yea, Quimby - yea, Kuiper - yea, Trigg – yea, Sauer - yea
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused 0 absent **Motion carried**

Staff Reports:

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details.

Administrative – Shelley Jablon

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details.

Public Comment – None

Board Comments – None

Adjourn

Motion By: Trigg to adjourn the BOH meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused 0 absent **Motion carried**

Christina Trigg, Vice-Chairperson

Sanna Johnson, Recording Secretary

To: Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Board of Health Members

From: Daniel Thorell, MS, RS, Health Officer

Date: November 13, 2025

Subject: November Board of Health Report

1. BLDHD MiThrive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report Finalized

The BLDHD CHNA report represents the collective work of hospital systems, public health departments, community organizations, and residents from across northern lower Michigan who came together with a shared commitment, to understand and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

The findings in this report reveal both progress and persistent challenges. Residents across the Northwest Region, including Benzie and Leelanau Counties, identified top priorities to address in the coming years to improve health outcomes. These priorities reflect the interconnected nature of health, where social and structural factors play as great a role as medical care itself.

Key Findings

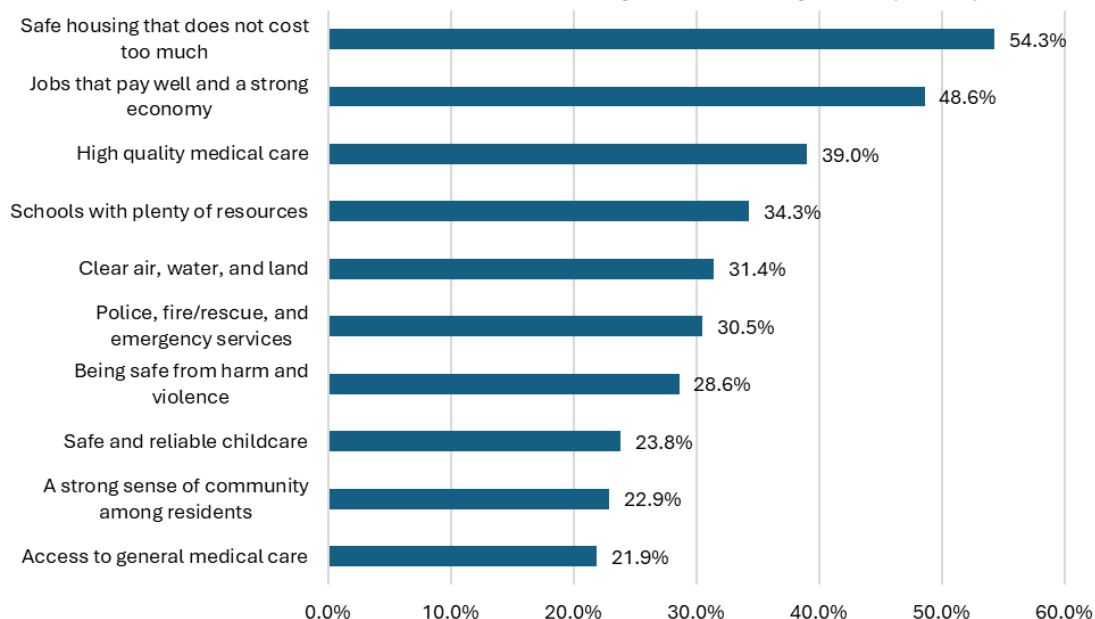
Analysis of primary and secondary data collected during the 2024-2026 MiThrive Community Health Needs Assessment revealed nine priorities issues in the Northwest Region. In December 2024, residents and community partners participated in the MiThrive Northwest Data Walk and Priority Setting Event. Using a criteria-based process that included severity, magnitude, impact, sustainability, achievability and health equity, participants ranked the priorities by region. The region decided to concentrate efforts on the top three priorities while acknowledging the importance of the others.

The final top-ranked issues in the Northwest Region are as follows:

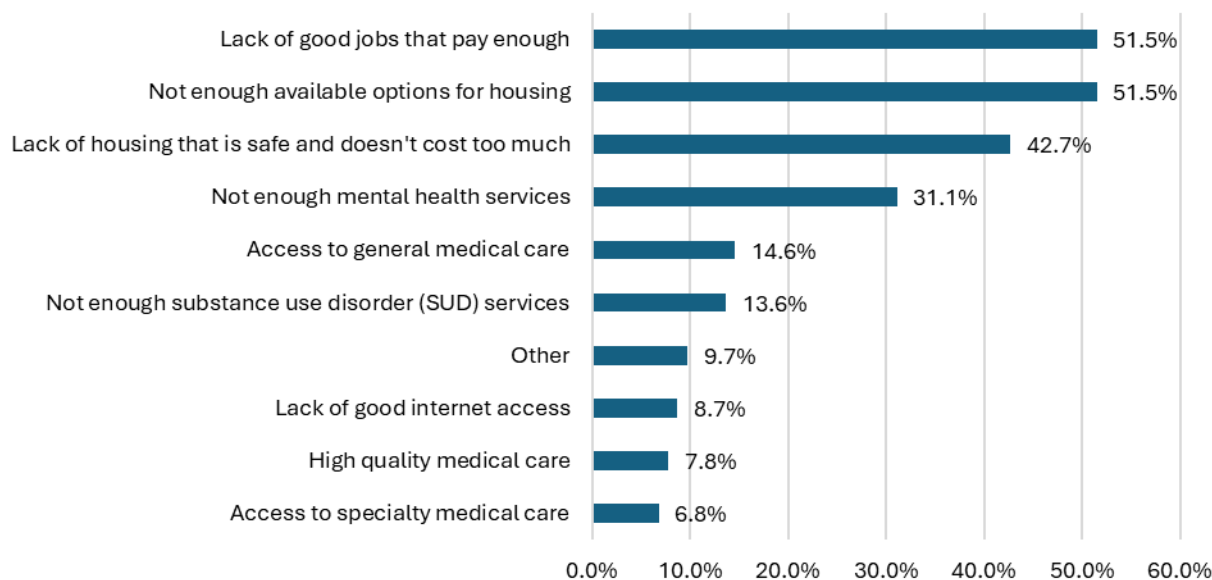
- Access to Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Economic Security

NWCHIR PRIORITIES		
	ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE	1
	MENTAL HEALTH	2
	ECONOMIC SECURITY	3
	HOUSING	4
	SAFETY & WELLBEING	5
	EDUCATION	6
	OBESITY	7
	BROADBAND	8
	ENVIRONMENT/INFRASTRUCTURE	9

Top Ten Factors for a Thriving Community as Identified by Benzie and Leelanau Residents, MiThrive Community Health Survey, 2024 (n=105)



Top Ten Issues Impacting the Community as Identified by Benzie and Leelanau Residents, MiThrive Community Health Survey, 2024 (n=105)



Next Steps

With the completion of the MiThrive Community Health Needs Assessment, there are numerous ways to continue to take action. Many organizations are developing Community Health Improvement Plans or Implementation Strategies focused on the top-ranked priorities in their service areas and regions. Some are incorporating these efforts into their internal strategic plans, while others are leveraging the report and MiThrive Data Platform to support grant proposals and legislative advocacy, securing additional resources to address key issues. Addressing these complex community challenges requires collaboration—no single organization can tackle them alone. Whether working with others on similar or intersecting issues, partnerships are essential.

2. Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA) Update

In another example of cross-jurisdictional collaboration, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department contracts with Health Department of Northwest Michigan to administer the KOHA program in Benzie and Leelanau Counties. Dawn Marie Strehl, Regional Oral Health Supervisor, manages the program for BLDHD, Grand Traverse County Health Department, Health Department of Northwest Michigan, and Central Michigan District Health Department. Dawn Marie is a Registered Dental Hygienist and currently serves on the Michigan Board of Dentistry. Dawn Marie supervises a team of seven registered dental hygienists and an administrative lead implementing the KOHA program.

Highlights

- One-stop shopping at Kindergarten Round-Ups: Oral health stations are set up in conjunction with hearing and vision to streamline the process for parents. This allowed families to complete multiple health checks on a single visit.
- All schools were completed in the spring and late summer/early fall.
- Strong oral health connections: continued linking families to oral health resources as needed, reinforcing the goal of establishing a dental home before kindergarten.
- Proactive family engagement: growing response from families who are taking the initiative to schedule visits with their family dentists prior to starting kindergarten, which aligns with the oral team's ultimate objective! That all children have dental homes, and parents report this to the school.

Impact

- Increased convenience for families with a one-stop assessment experience.
- Coverage of all schools
- Progress toward every child entering kindergarten with a dental home, as well as verified hearing and vision health.

Next Steps

- Continue co-hosting Round-Ups with hearing, vision, and oral health partners to sustain momentum.
- Track long-term outcomes: referrals, dental home connections established, and any follow-up identified during kindergarten entry.

Outcomes

- Benzie County: 75 Oral Health Assessments, 1 referral for care, and 2 Urgent Care referrals
- Leelanau County: 97 Oral Health Assessments, 7 referrals for care, and 2 Urgent Care referrals

The Mi School Data website has data for the 2024/25 school year and reports 285 students in Kindergarten for both Benzie and Leelanau Counties. This number has been fairly consistent in recent years which means about 60% of incoming kindergartners have participated in the KOHA screening.

3. Jean E. Chabut Public Health Advocate Award



On October 28th, I attended the Michigan Premier Public Health Conference in Muskegon. This conference was well attended with more than 500 public health professionals present. I had the privilege of presenting the Jean E. Chabut Public Health Advocate Award this year. Awardees are those who advocate for system changes that improve the health of the population they serve, especially those who are underserved; building strong relationships or mobilizing through leadership; and overcoming barriers to succeed with grace. This year's recipient was our own Debbie Aldridge. Over the past 10 years, Debbie has demonstrated incredible leadership in building and growing Community Connections. Through six certified Hubs operated by local health departments, Community Connections creates a sustainable community-based care coordination system led by Community Health Workers. Debbie has mobilized diverse partners to create a seamless referral and reporting system, secured sustainable funding, and built trust across sectors. Her leadership was instrumental in establishing contracts with Medicaid health plans and initiating billing mechanisms with both Medicaid and Medicare. It was an honor to present this award to Debbie. She has been with BLDHD

since the beginning and through her dedication and compassion has improved the lives of many families in our area. Receiving this award was a fitting tribute to Debbie, who is retiring in mid-December. She will be greatly missed by the staff and community.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE TOTALS

(November 2025)

BOH meeting

10/31/2025.....	\$1,116.05
10/31/2025.....	\$2,847.08
10/31/2025.....	\$102,193.00
TOTAL	\$106,156.13

Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Check/Voucher Register - Check Register

API00855 - SEPT MANUAL AP

10100 - Honor Bank Checking

From 9/30/2025 Through 10/31/2025

Effective Date	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	RU Code	Check Amount	Payment Type
9/30/2025	9/30/2025	M093025OCT001	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1L1K-X9HD-4JFJ	SEPT MANUAL AP		61.90	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47426	John E. Green Company	214935	ADJUSTING PTAC UNIT AIR INTAKE		314.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025		John E. Green Company	214981	NEW PARTS FOR FURNANCE		576.94	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH093025OCT01	Carolina Tabora-Cortez	092925CT	MEAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING 9/29-9/30		60.37	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH093025OCT02	Hannah Grinage	09302025hg	REIMBURSEMENT FOR FACEBOOK AD FOR PC DURING AUG & SEPT		102.84	Voucher
Report Total							1,116.05	

Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Check/Voucher Register - Check Register

PI0855A - Paying Visa

10100 - Honor Bank Checking

From 9/30/2025 Through 10/31/2025

Effective Date	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	RU Code	Check Amount	Payment Type
9/30/2025	9/30/2025	M093025001A	Cardmember Service	093025ADT	Paying Visa		3,263.16	Check
9/30/2025	9/30/2025		Cardmember Service	0930AIRBNB	Paying Visa		<u>(416.08)</u>	Check
Report Total							2,847.08	

Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Check/Voucher Register - Check Register

API00856 - MISC AP OCT

10100 - Honor Bank Checking

From 10/31/2025 Through 10/31/2025

Effective Date	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	RU Code	Check Amount	Payment Type
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47427	AMERISOURCEBERGEN	3229854226	HAVRIX ADULT VACCINE FOR BENZIE		2,233.05	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47428	Catherine Maxson	10202025CM	REFUND FOR REVIEW FOR REMODEL/DID NOT NEED ONE		103.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47429	Dearborn Life Insurance Company	10152025DB	LIFE INSURANCE		279.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47430	Delta Dental	RIS0006650211	DENTAL INSURANCE		4,098.43	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47431	Dolly Parton's Imagination Library GTR	102225	NOVEMBER BOOKS		1,270.21	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47432	HS GovTech USA Inc.	INV-00239	EXTENSION OF HSCLOUD SUITE CONTRACT THRU OCT 31, 2025		710.27	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47433	John E. Green Company	214730	MAINTANCE ON HEATING SYSTEM		1,740.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47434	Leelanau County	10242025LC	MAINTENANCE COST FOR LEELANAU EH NOV 25		2,650.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47435	Leelanau Montessori	10242025LMS	NOVEMBER RENT FOR LEELANAU PH		6,273.28	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47436	Luke Hershey	102725LH	50% OF REPAIR COST FOR FAUCET REIMBURSEMENT		173.75	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47437	Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	10132025ML	LIFE,SHORT & LONG TERM DIS, VOL LIFE INS		4,741.77	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47438	Michael Handlogten	10152025MH	REFUND FOR OVERCHARGING APPLICANT		154.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47439	Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority	M0001218100125	MMRMA INSURANCE GENERAL FUND CONTRIBUTION		36,510.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025		Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority	R0001218100125	MMRMA INSURANCE FOR RETENTION FUND CONTRIBUTION		9,500.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47440	Munson Occupational Health & Medicine	00242870-00	DRUG SCREEN FOR NEW EMPLOYEE		43.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47441	Picture Perfect Asphalt Restoration	2565	ASPHALT REPAIR TO BCRC PARKING LOT		600.00	Check

Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Check/Voucher Register - Check Register

API00856 - MISC AP OCT

10100 - Honor Bank Checking

From 10/31/2025 Through 10/31/2025

Effective Date	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	RU Code	Check Amount	Payment Type
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	47442	Traverse City Area Public Schools	6094	NOVEMBER EVENT FLYERS, MINI FLYERS, DPIL FLYERS		70.90	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025		Traverse City Area Public Schools	6102	BUSINESS CARDS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FLYERS		96.67	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT01	Applied Innovation	2963121	COPIERS/PRINTERS		414.50	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT02	Carolina Tabora-Cortez	102725CT	MEAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR HEARING TRAINING 10/1-10/9/25		112.42	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT03	Mark Kuiper	10222025MK	PER DIEM AND MILEAGE		92.50	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT04	Hannah Grinage	10242025HG	REIMBURSEMENT FOR FOOD FOR HARVEST FESTIVAL		63.09	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT05	NHF Sub Benzie-Leelanau	10232025NHF	LOAN PAYMENT		4,885.00	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT06	Patagonia Health Inc.	13630	PH SOFTWARE		3,892.55	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT07	Shelley Jablon	10202025SJ	MEAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR CONFERENCE 10/15-16		40.00	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT08	Solutions For You, LLC	HA-25RJQW	CLEANING SERVICES FOR OCT IN LEELANAU		1,300.00	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT09	SOS Analytical	255901	WATER TESTING FOR EVALS, DHD INSPECTIONS, WELLS		4,325.00	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT10	Maggie Sprattmoran	2378	REFLECTIVE CONSULTATION FOR LEELANAU ECD & MIHP		600.00	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	ACH103125OCT11	Wyant Computer Services	35306	COMPUTER MAINTENANCE, SUBSCRIPTIONS/LICE...		10,469.17	Voucher
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT001	DTE Energy	10102025DTE	OCT MANUAL AP		53.06	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT002	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	19QP-136L-77PY	OCT MANUAL AP		719.94	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT003	Cardmember Service	10152025SJ	OCT MANUAL AP		565.60	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT004	Cardmember Service	10152025DT	OCT MANUAL AP		834.13	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT005	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1RRW-746C-KTLY	OCT MANUAL AP		41.62	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT006	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1NGT-DKQT-6J3Q	OCT MANUAL AP		202.82	Check

Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Check/Voucher Register - Check Register

API00856 - OCT MANUAL AP

10100 - Honor Bank Checking

From 10/31/2025 Through 10/31/2025

Effective Date	Document Date	Check Number	Vendor Name	Invoice #	Invoice Description	RU Code	Check Amount	Payment Type
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT007	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1FWF-RMKN-C7PQ	OCT MANUAL AP		33.49	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT008	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	17DG-QWG6-4NKV	OCT MANUAL AP		25.00	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT009	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1RRW-VDXV-6F79	OCT MANUAL AP		14.24	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT010	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1LHV-HWFN-VMYL	OCT MANUAL AP		13.29	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT011	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1LDK-VDND-J43Q	OCT MANUAL AP		45.90	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT012	Synchrony Bank/Amazon.com	1LNY-L4MJ-GXYQ	OCT MANUAL AP		20.96	Check
10/31/2025	10/31/2025	M103125OCT013	Aflac	824672	OCT MANUAL AP		<u>2,181.39</u>	Check
Report Total							<u>102,193.00</u>	

PROVIDER UPDATE

News from your local Health Department

In This Issue

Vaccine
Recommendations

Anaplasmosis

Michigan Public
Health Data
Dashboards

Breastfeeding Resources

Hearing and Vision

Gun Safety

Emergency
Preparedness

Arbovirus Report

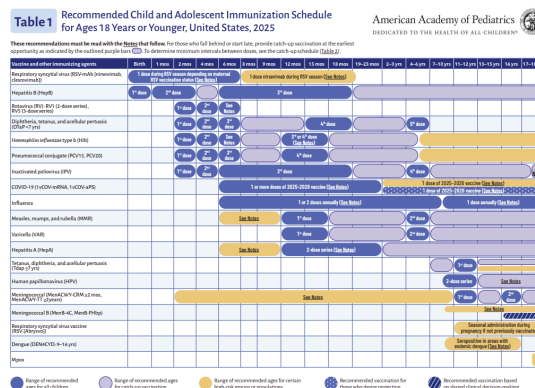
Year to Date CD Report

Vaccine Recommendations

As fall and winter respiratory virus season begins, several vaccines are available to reduce illness, hospitalizations, and deaths. With the changes made earlier this year at the Federal government level in how vaccine recommendations are considered and made by the ACIP and the CDC, I think it is important to review the current recommendations of the leading national medical organizations and MDHHS. These are the recommendations that I will be using in my agency standing orders as well as for our communications.

Both the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) have put out their own evidence-based Immunization Schedules. Many other medical groups, including the American College of OB/GYN (ACOG) and the American College of Physicians (ACP), are also now making or endorsing these recommendations that may differ from the CDC. These recommendations are consistent with FDA approval and reflect the scientific consensus regarding the safety and benefits of immunization.

In general for all routine vaccines, the Health Department will be following and recommending the [AAP Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule](#) and the [AAFP Schedules for Adults](#). Please familiarize yourself with these guidelines.



Joshua Meyerson, MD

220 W. Garfield Ave.
Charlevoix, MI 49720

j.meyerson@nwhealth.org
231-547-7679



800-432-4121
www.nwhealth.org



231-882-4409
www.bldhd.org



989-356-4507
www.dhd4.org

Anaplasmosis

Anaplasmosis, caused by *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and transmitted by the blacklegged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), continues to emerge in northern Michigan. Providers should maintain a high index of suspicion during tick season, as symptoms are often nonspecific (fever, headache, myalgia, malaise, GI symptoms) and lab findings may include leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, and elevated liver enzymes. Prompt treatment with doxycycline is critical and should not be delayed while awaiting lab confirmation.

Local Case Counts (2025):

- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department (BLDHD): 27 cases (up from 10 cases last year)
- District Health Department no. 4: 2 cases (0 cases reported last year)
- Health Department of Northwest Michigan (HDNW): 3 cases (0 cases reported last year)



The majority of cases present between late spring and early fall. Providers are encouraged to consider anaplasmosis in patients with compatible symptoms and recent outdoor exposure, even if a tick bite was not noted. Early testing (PCR during the first week of illness, or paired serology later) is important to confirm diagnosis and support surveillance efforts. However, treatment with doxycycline should not be delayed while awaiting results, as prompt therapy reduces the risk of severe disease.

References:

- [CDC Anaplasmosis](#)
- [CDC- Clinical Care of Anaplasmosis](#)
- [MDHHS Anaplasmosis](#)
- [MDHHS- Got a tick? Submit a pic!](#)

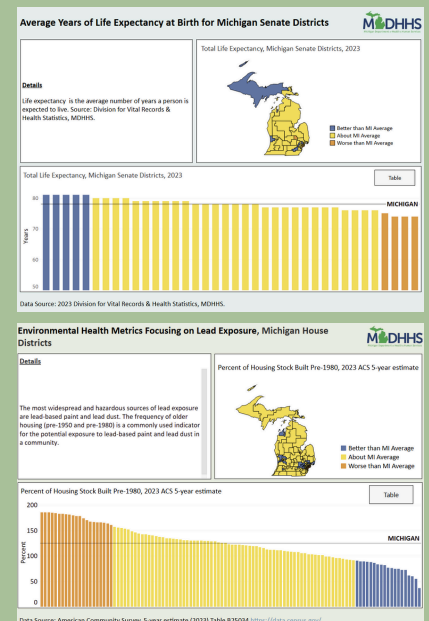
Michigan Public Health Data Dashboards

The Michigan Public Health Data Dashboards provide public health community profiles at the legislative district level. The two dashboards include information for Michigan Senate districts and for Michigan House districts. Our service region comprises of Senate District 32, 36, and 37. Additionally, our service region at the house level comprises District 103, 104, 105, 106, and 107.

Detailed information, methodology and definitions for each public health metric, including the currently available timeframe of data, can be found directly in the dashboards. These public health metrics include data on HIV&STI, Immunizations, Social Determinants of Health, Lead Health Metrics, Opioid Overdose Deaths, Life Expectancy, Birth Metrics, Death Metrics and Premature Deaths.

The dashboards will be updated by MDHHS as new data becomes available for each metric to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date view of public health across the state.

[Click Here to View Dashboards](#)



Breastfeeding Resources for Your Patients



Providers can connect new parents with their local health department for breastfeeding guidance and ongoing resources, helping families establish and sustain breastfeeding successfully.

One of the programs offered is the [Healthy Futures](#). A partnership, Munson Medical Center and local health departments work together to support breastfeeding families in northern Michigan. This collaboration ensures families receive seamless care from the hospital to the community, with access to lactation consultants, education, and follow-up support.

Hearing and Vision Program

Michigan's Hearing and Vision programs have been in place since 1949, screening over 1 million children annually. As required by the Public Health Code, children must be screened during preschool (ages 3-5) and again before entering kindergarten.

These screenings are FREE for all Michigan children through local health departments. Each year, more than 87,000 children are referred to eye care professionals or physicians for follow-up care, ensuring early identification and treatment of potential issues.

No child is too young to be screened. Upon diagnosis, immediate treatment increases the likelihood of remediating temporary difficulties and preventing them from becoming permanent problems.

To maintain program funding and demonstrate the effectiveness of Michigan's Hearing and Vision Screening Programs, it is essential to submit documentation confirming diagnosis, medical intervention, and treatment recommendations.

When a child is identified with a hearing or vision concern, your role is critical in ensuring timely referral to appropriate specialists. Your partnership helps to provide effective care and support for Michigan's children.

For more information on Michigan's Hearing and Vision Screening Programs click [here](#).

Gun Safety



To help protect Michigan families, especially children, a new firearm safety law went into effect February 13, 2024. Public Act 17 of 2023 require firearms to be unloaded and secured with a locking device or stored in a locked container or lockbox when not in use, particularly when it is reasonably known that a minor may be present in the home.

Providers are encouraged to help raise awareness about this law to promote safety in the communities they serve.

Gun safety in the home is just as important as gun safety outside of the home. With hunting season underway, especially in Northern Michigan, it's important to remind patients about the risks associated with lead ammunition, both for personal safety and public health.

Key Concerns:

- Lead exposure from ammunition: Lead bullets and shots are a major source of environmental contamination. Tens of thousands of tons are released annually during recreational hunting and shooting.
- Human health risks: People who eat wild game harvested with lead ammunition may unknowingly consume tiny fragments of lead that cannot be seen or felt when chewing.
- Vulnerable populations: Lead is especially harmful to developing bodies and nervous systems. Exposure during pregnancy or nursing can pass lead to the fetus or infant through the placenta or breast milk.

Populations Most at Risk:

- Young children and infants who consume venison
- Fetuses
- Nursing babies

For more information see:

- [Lead Bullets and Venison](#)
- [DNR: Lead Poisoning in Wildlife](#)

Recommendations for Patients:

Providers can help reduce risk by advising:

- Avoidance of venison harvested with high-velocity lead bullets for patients who are pregnant, nursing, can become pregnant, or under age 6.
- Choosing whole cuts like steaks and chops over ground venison, which has a higher likelihood of lead contamination.
- Avoiding organ meats from wild game due to potential chemical accumulation.
- Using non-lead ammunition, such as copper bullets or shotgun slugs, which significantly reduce lead contamination.

Choose ammunition that will not leave lead fragments in the meat.

Worst	Better	Best
Rapidly expanding bullet. - Ballistic tip. - Soft point.	Shotgun slug. Muzzleloader bullet. Non-exposed lead core bullet.	Copper bullet. Lead-free bullet.
These bullets leave the most lead fragments in the meat. The lead can be found throughout the meat, not just along the wound channel.	These fragment much less due to slower velocity, higher mass or a metal completely covering the lead. However, there is still some risk of lead fragments.	Copper and lead-free bullets leave no lead in the meat.

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness is often something that our clients may not always think of. It is important to remind residents of how they can protect their health in an emergent situation.

Disability intersects every demographic group, there are people with disabilities of all ages, races, sex or national origin. And, disabilities can impact a person in a variety of ways, both visible and invisible. For people with disabilities and their families, it is important to consider individual circumstances and needs to effectively prepare for emergencies and disasters.

If you have clients who need electricity for medical equipment, offer guidance on power outages and ensuring their equipment is still able to function properly. Providers may also ask for their patients to be put on a list for priority power restoration.



For more information on emergency preparedness, visit www.ready.gov

Arbovirus Report

In Michigan, reported human arbovirus cases for 2025 are up to 40 as of October 10. Outbreaks of WNV have been occurring in Michigan every summer since 2002. Urban areas in Southeastern Lower Michigan and Western Lower Michigan have historically seen the most WNV activity, but notably of the 35 cases reported to date 2 were from Emmet County. Five people have tested positive for Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) - from Alcona, Macomb, Ogemaw, Roscommon, and Washtenaw counties.

Also, of note locally is that one horse in Benzie County has tested positive for Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE) along with several birds that have tested positive for WNV in Northern Michigan.

JCV is an arbovirus that can cause human disease. Symptoms can include fever, headache and fatigue. The virus can also cause a more severe disease including encephalitis. There are no vaccines to prevent or medicines to treat JCV. In the United States, an average of 23 JCV neuroinvasive disease cases are reported each year (2011-2022). There is significant under-diagnosis and under-reporting of less severe cases of JCV, therefore, reported neuroinvasive disease cases are used to compare trends over time and place. Most JCV cases occur from April through September, with the virus being found throughout much of the United States. Minnesota and Wisconsin have reported more than half of all cases, historically.

The most effective way to avoid reduce the risk of arboviral disease is by preventing mosquito bites. Families can protect themselves when outdoors by using insect repellents proven safe and effective.

Those registered with the EPA contain one of these active ingredients:

- DEET
- Picaridin
- IR3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para menthane-diol (PMD)
- 2-undecanone

For parents with babies and children, always follow instructions when applying insect repellent and in general do not use insect repellent on babies younger than two months old. The best way to apply insect repellent on a child's face is to spray the repellent directly onto your hand and then apply it to a child's face.

Another way to prevent mosquito bites is to control mosquitoes inside and outside of homes by maintaining screens on windows and doors, eliminate stagnate water that can breed mosquitoes, and keeping grass cut short and shrubs trimmed.

For more information see:

- [Michigan West Nile Virus Homepage](#)
- [CDC: Jamestown Canyon Virus](#)

January 1st- September 30th, 2025

2025 Communicable Disease Report

for
Health Departments of
Benzie-Leelanau, District No. 4,
and Northwest Michigan

Counties Include:

Benzie
Leelanau
Alpena
Cheboygan
Montmorency
Presque Isle
Antrim
Charlevoix
Emmet
Otsego

Disease Group	Disease	BLDHD	DHD no 4	HDNW
COVID19/MIS	Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	63	424	459
Foodborne	Campylobacter	4	15	21
Foodborne	Cryptosporidiosis	1	1	0
Foodborne	Giardiasis	4	1	1
Foodborne	Listeriosis	0	1	0
Foodborne	Norovirus	2	1	0
Foodborne	Salmonellosis	2	12	14
Foodborne	Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli --(STEC)	0	3	4
Foodborne	Shigellosis	0	2	0
Foodborne	Yersinia enteritis	2	2	4
Influenza	Flu Like Disease*	710	42	3040
Influenza	Influenza	74	279	255
Influenza	Respiratory Syncytial Virus	0	4	13
Meningitis	Meningitis - Aseptic	1	0	2
Meningitis	Meningitis - Bacterial Other	1	1	1
Meningitis	Streptococcus pneumoniae, Inv	3	11	9
Other	Blastomycosis	0	2	0
Other	CPO	0	2	1
Other	Candida auris	0	2	1
Other	Coccidioidomycosis	0	3	0
Other	Cryptococcosis	1	0	0
Other	Cyclosporiasis	1	0	1
Other	Gastrointestinal Illness	219	12	0
Other	Head Lice	20	0	50
Other	Histoplasmosis	1	11	0
Other	Legionellosis	0	3	1
Other	Strep Throat	29	0	190
Other	Streptococcal Dis, Inv, Grp A	2	5	4
Other	Unusual Outbreak or Occurrence	2	1	0
Other	VISA	0	0	1
Rabies	Rabies: Potential Exposure & PEP	10	60	80
STD	Chlamydia (Genital)	27	56	67
STD	Gonorrhea	3	2	7
STD	Syphilis - Early Latent	1	0	2
STD	Syphilis- Secondary	1	0	1
STD	Syphilis - Unknown Duration or Late	0	2	2
Tuberculosis	Latent Tuberculosis Infection	1	0	10
Tuberculosis	Nontuberculous Mycobacterium	0	5	3
VPD	Chickenpox (Varicella)	0	1	3
VPD	H. influenzae Disease - Inv.	0	6	2
VPD	Mumps	0	1	0
VPD	Pertussis	9	2	3
VPD	Shingles	2	0	3
VPD	VZ Infection, Unspecified	1	1	1
Vectorborne	Anaplasmosis	27	2	3
Vectorborne	Ehrlichiosis, all types	1	1	0
Vectorborne	Encephalitis, California Serogroup	1	0	0
Vectorborne	Lyme Disease	72	14	44
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis A	0	1	0
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis B, Acute	0	3	0
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	2	5
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis C, Acute	0	1	0
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis C, Chronic	2	13	14
	Total	1300	1013	4322



Dr. Joshua Meyerson serves as the Medical Director for three local health departments in northern Michigan: Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, and District Health Department No. 4.

Personal Health Division
Board of Health Report
11/19/2025

Staffing Updates

- Bobbi Scott has been promoted to Personal Health Supervisor, replacing Autumn Jurek. Bobbi has worked at the health department since 2020 and has been our Immunization Coordinator for the last couple years. She will continue in this role, and will also oversee clinical services and staff primarily in the WIC, MIHP and Immunization programs.
- The Personal Health Admin team met on 11/17/25 to evaluate all staff positions and program needs, with the goal of redistributing work to best utilize staff expertise and interests while also increasing capacity within the PH Division.
- We are seeking a mental health provider to replace a recently vacated position in our School Wellness Program at Suttons Bay Schools.

Program Updates

- Harm Reduction: Beginning in March, MDHHS is offering additional Harm Reduction funding to expand Community Health Worker (CHW) roles to better evaluate and address substance use. CHWs will receive additional training in how to talk to clients about substance use, assess for substance use disorder, and connect residents to treatment and support options. Substance use disorder assessment and referrals will then be integrated into Community Connections. The \$45,000 for FY 26 will support .25 of staff time (.2 CHW and .05 outreach). Per MDHHS, it is anticipated that \$90,000 will be available in FY 27 to continue this work.
- Fall vaccine clinics continue and are almost fully booked through the end of November. The need for immunizations falls off dramatically in December. As of 11/10/25, approximately 1300 vaccines have been given this season.

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
Board of Health Meeting – November 19, 2025
Environmental Health Director's Report
Eric Johnston

1. Radon Awareness Month – Give a Can, Get a Kit campaign

- Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that can cause cancer. Radon enters homes through openings in the foundation floor or walls.
- One in four homes in Michigan is estimated to have indoor radon levels that exceed the federal action level.
- Traditionally, the month of January has been proclaimed by Michigan Governors as Radon Action Month in Michigan.
- In support of that proclamation, our department has provided a free radon test kit during the month of January to anyone who stops into either of our office locations and requests one.
- For the past six Januarys, we have promoted the “Give a Can, Get a Kit” campaign which requests that a non-perishable food item or personal hygiene product be donated in exchange for a free radon test kit.
- The items donated have been given to a local non-profit human services organization in the county where it was collected.
- The campaign has been a hit with the public in both counties and has led to more public awareness of the dangers of radon gas and has also helped the less fortunate in our community.
- It is our desire to continue with the Give a Can, Get a Kit campaign in January of 2026.

2. Michigan House Bill No. 4081 (Update)

- Bill would amend Section 108 of the Land Division Act (MCL560.108)
- It would increase, from four (4) to ten (10), the number of parcels that the first 10 acres of a parent parcel or tract could be divided into beginning one year after the bill's effective date.
- It would also allow a municipality to authorize the further partitioning of land into more parcels or tracts than allowed under Section 108 if the land met standards established by the municipality.
- The bill passed the House of Representatives (96-6) on April 22, 2025, and was discharged from the Senate Committee on Local Government on August 13, 2025.
- The bill is currently awaiting a vote by the full Senate. There is a high likelihood that the bill will pass the Senate if it comes up for a vote and the Governor will most likely sign it.
- The Michigan Association of Local Environmental Health Administrators (MALEHA) has raised concerns to lawmakers that this bill could result in the creation of parcels too small to accommodate both a well and septic system, rendering them unbuildable. However, lawmakers have expressed little concern and are unwilling to include protections in the bill to address this issue.

3. Food Manager Classes

- Due to demand, we will be offering another session of the National Environmental Health Association food safety course, "Food Safety Management Principles", to our area food facilities in January.
- The course covers principles necessary to maintain food safety and sanitation within the manager's operation and prepares them for the Food Safety Manager Certification Examination.
- The cost of the class is \$122.00 per person. The fee includes the course book and certification test.
- Nick Dow is the instructor and proctor for the classes.
- The Benzie class will be held at the Benzie Community Resource Center on January 6th, 2026.
- The Leelanau class will be held at the Leelanau County Government Center on January 7th, 2026.

Thank you,
J. Eric Johnston, R.S.
Director of Environmental Health

Director of Administrative Services
Report – November 2025
Shelley Jablon

The purpose of the administration division is to manage the finances, purchasing, billing, human resources, technology and assist in the building areas of the Health Department.

Finance :

There were no financials included this month as I am in the process of trying to close Fiscal Year 2025. The closing of the fiscal year is taking longer than originally anticipated. As discussed at the October Board of Health Meeting I did include a breakdown of BLDHD's funding per department. Attached are graphs for both fiscal years. The breakdown shows how much State/Fed funding, grants that were received, fees that were collected, In Kind amounts given and local appropriations that were used or predicted to be used for the Personal Health and the Environmental Health Departments. I did not include the rent from Benzie Resource Center or the remodel project that was completed in 2025. As shown in the attached documents, revenue for both Departments will be lower by approximately 93% this year from last. The overall use of local appropriations for the two departments will increase by 4% for fiscal year 2026. BLDHD is anticipating collecting approximately 5% more in fees for service. It is expected that the amount received from State/Federal funding for 2026 will be about 4% lower this year than what was received last year. The amount of grant money that BLDHD should receive in 2026 will be approximately 3% lower.

Human Resources:

I have been in contact with Advantage Benefits about our ancillary benefits. Our benefits coordinator has found BLDHD some cost savings by changing carriers for our short-term disability, long-term disability and employer sponsored life insurance. The initial quote from Met Life, the carrier for the listed benefits for 2025, was going to increase by approximately 31%. BLDHD will be switching to Lincoln Financial, the quoted cost for 2026 was approximately 7.5% more than the 2025 prices, which will be approximately a 23.5% savings or \$10,500.

Technology, Purchasing and Billing:

No new changes since our last meeting.

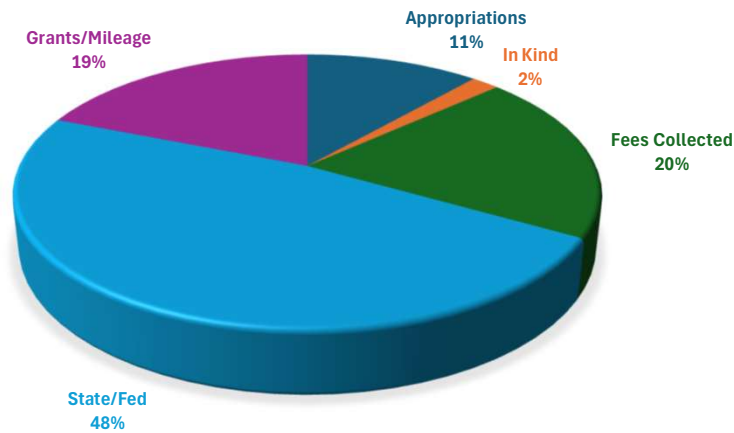
Building:

There is a Building Partners meeting scheduled for December 9, 2025.

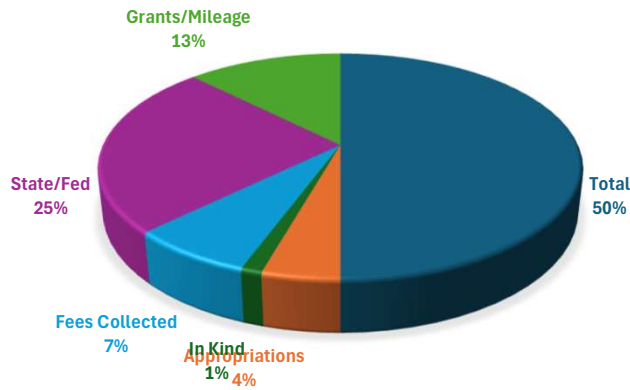
Budgeted Revenue Sources for Fiscal Year 2025

	Total	Appropriations	In Kind	Fees Collected	State/Fed	Grants/Mileage
Person Health	\$ 5,786,585.00	\$ 509,743.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 817,676.00	\$ 2,879,000.00	\$ 1,440,166.00
Enviromental Health	\$ 1,813,966.00	\$ 360,636.00	\$ -	\$ 701,050.00	\$ 752,280.00	\$ -
	\$ 7,600,551.00	\$ 870,379.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 1,518,726.00	\$ 3,631,280.00	\$ 1,440,166.00

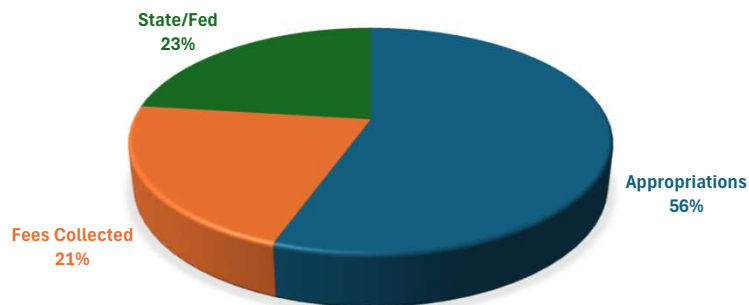
FY 2025 OVERALL AGENCY BUDGETED REVENUES



FY 2025 PERSONAL HEALTH BUDGETED REVENUES



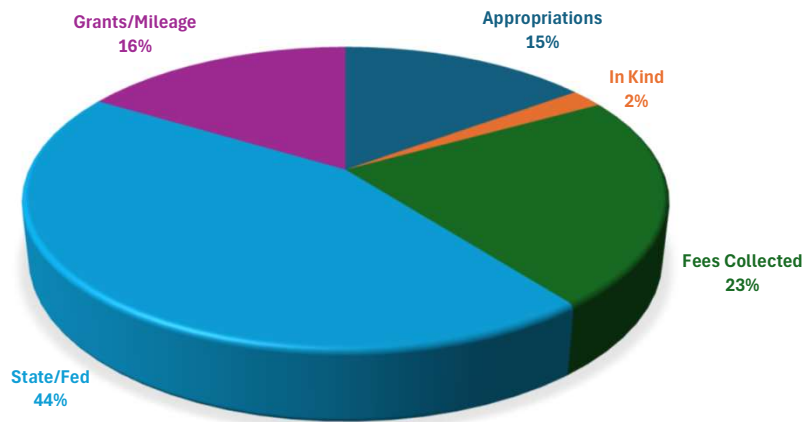
FY 2025 ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH BUDGETED REVENUES



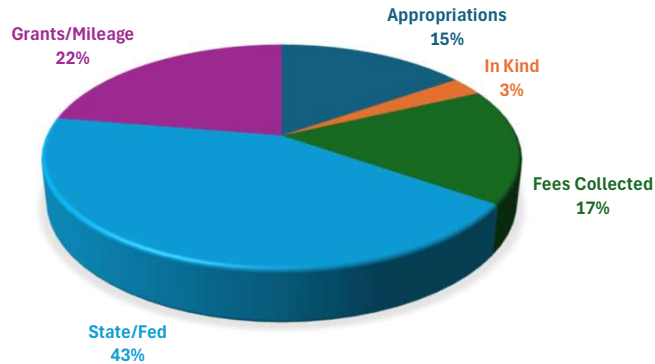
Estimate of Revenue Sources for Fiscal Year 2026

	Total	Appropriations	In Kind	Fees Collected	State/Fed	Grants/Mileage
Personal Health	\$ 5,160,582.00	\$ 790,289.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 860,946.00	\$ 2,215,978.00	\$ 1,153,369.00
Enviromental Health	\$ 1,872,114.00	\$ 260,287.00	\$ -	\$ 726,215.00	\$ 885,612.00	\$ -
	\$ 7,032,696.00	\$ 1,050,576.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 1,587,161.00	\$ 3,101,590.00	\$ 1,153,369.00

FY 2026 OVERALL AGENCY ESTIMATED REVENUES



FY 2026 PERSONAL HEALTH ESTIMATED REVENUES



FY 2026 ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ESTIMATED REVENUES

