

91-05

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Allocation of Federal Grants

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) urges federal executive branch departments and offices to:

- Require local health department review and comment on any health-related plans for state distribution of federal funds to local health departments and associated funding distributions to their jurisdiction; and,
- Inform local health departments of all federal funding related to public health going directly to community-based organizations or other service providers in their jurisdiction.

Justification

Local health departments are the governmental public health presence most closely integrated with local communities. As such, they bring a unique perspective regarding the needs for accomplishing the goals set forth in funding announcements that, if not incorporated, can result in inefficient or duplicative use of increasingly precious resources. If local health departments are engaged in and approve of plans and funding allocation decisions, as has been modeled by the Office for Public Health Preparedness and Response and included in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Law passed in 2006 and re-authorized in 2013, plans and associated resources can be disseminated in ways that are most likely to impact the populations they are intended to reach. The law requires states to obtain public comment and input on their all-hazards public health preparedness and response plans and to gain the concurrence of local health departments on the state plan for spending federal public health preparedness funds.¹

In addition, having policies and practices that ensure local health departments are informed of all directly federally funded community-based organizations in their jurisdictions means that local health departments can quickly assess the landscape of services being provided in their jurisdictions, identify and respond to associated needs for collaboration and communication with their local partners, and avoid duplication of efforts.

References

1. E.g., requiring state health departments to show on grant applications that they have at least agreement with 50 percent of county/city health departments covering at least 50 percent of the state population

Record of Action

Adopted by NACCHO Board of Directors July 12, 1991

Updated September 2008



Updated January 2017