

# ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH IN IOWA

## AN OVERVIEW OF IPHA PRIORITIES FOR 2020

### SUPPORTING PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

State funding supports the critical work of local public health agencies - our front line of prevention. The state's portion of public health funding is only 21%, the rest comes from federal and other funds, like grants. Federal funding for public health is on the decline, yet the need remains at the local level. A stable state funding model that prioritizes local public health is necessary to modernize and support Iowa's public health infrastructure.

#### This is a priority because...

- In 2018, the State's allocation for public health was only \$15.68 per person.
- 70% of adults have unhealthy weight; 26,000 youth use tobacco products; violence killed 571 people in 2017. Racial and ethnic minorities carry the disproportionate burden of illness and disease.
- Local public health agencies are best equipped to determine and manage the health risks most affecting their communities.

### PROMOTING HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES

The health of Iowans contributes to a robust economy and the livability of our state. By looking at the health equity impact of decision-making, we will increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness in our efforts to improve the health of Iowans. We must make wise policy and financial investments in all sectors for Iowa to truly become the "healthiest state in the nation."

#### This is a priority because...

- Our greatest health challenges and solutions are highly complex and extend beyond the doctor's office.
- The social, physical, and economic environments in which Iowans live, work, learn and play significantly impact their health.
- Improving the health of Iowans requires collaboration with experts in housing, transportation, education, water and air quality, criminal justice, and employment..

### PROTECTING IOWA'S IMMUNIZATION RATES

Vaccine requirements ensure the population is protected from disease. Achieving and maintaining high vaccination rates across the life span are two of the most important safeguards to prevent the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, including infections, cancers, and other chronic diseases.

#### This is a priority because...

- Vaccine hesitancy is recognized as one of the Top 10 threats to global public health in 2019.
- For every \$1 spent on vaccines, \$10.10 is saved.
- Vaccination protects the individual and prevents the spread of disease in Iowa's communities..



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# JOIN US!

**Since 1925, IPHA has been the independent, member-driven voice for public health in Iowa. Today, IPHA is positioned to champion policies and initiatives that prioritize health equity and contribute to a healthy and thriving Iowa.**

We are a non-profit association led by a committed board of public health professionals and powered by the engagement of more than 400 public health professionals and advocates from across the state. We serve our members and the public by convening community leaders, partners, and allies; providing public health education and resources; and, advocating for policies that improve health and address disparities.

We stand ready as a credible, evidence-driven community of professionals urging wise policy and financial investments across sectors that value the health of Iowans.

## IPHA IS A MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION THAT IS...

### COMMUNITY-FOCUSED

The core of public health practice and research is doing good for others, for our communities and for the population at large. We strive to make the healthy choice the easy choice.

### DISCIPLINED

We work to scale advocacy and education in core public health areas to support our members' work, in their communities, across the state.

### FACT-BASED

We frame our public health priorities and around data and research-based evidence. Our motives are true to health, without corporate or partisan pressure or influence.

### EQUITABLE

Factors such as age, gender, race, sexual orientation, and creed should not determine an individual's health. We are a voice for all Iowans and are working to eliminate health disparities.

### INCLUSIVE

We value and seek varying perspectives and experiences from a diverse range of individuals and strive to include those outside the health sector in public health conversations.

### PROACTIVE

We monitor statewide, regional, and national trends and stand ready to lead in the early stages of public health challenges when evidence and our membership compel us to act.

### PRAGMATIC

We understand that coalition building is critical to public health success. We seek small wins when the ultimate goal is not quickly or easily attainable.

**IPHA is state affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA). We have collaborate with APHA togrow stronger as organizations, to share expertise, influence, and resources, and to advocate for common priorities at the local, state, and federal levels. APHA is the national voice of public health and champions the health of all people and all communities. They are the only organization that combines a 140-plus year perspective, the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public's health and a member community from all public health disciplines andover 40 countries. Learn more at [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org).**



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