

Detroit Health Department

Memo



To: Councilmember At-Large, Coleman A. Young II

Initial
DFR

From: Denise Fair Razo, Chief Public Health Officer, Health Department

Date: March 27, 2025

Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Health Department Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/21/2025 regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Health Department.

1. Sustaining Public Health Initiatives Post-ARPA: With ARPA funding winding down, how does the department plan to maintain critical programs such as lead abatement, maternal and child health, and behavioral health services in the coming years?

The Department will continue to finance Maternal and Child Health, Behavioral Health, and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention programs using a combination of general fund dollars, state and foundational grants, marihuana excise revenue, and opioid settlement funding.

2. Expanding Health Equity & Community-Based Services: What new strategies is the Health Department implementing to ensure underserved communities have increased access to preventative care and health education?
 - a. **The Detroit Health Department is now offering free health screenings at 7 Neighborhood Wellness Centers (NWC) across all city districts. Blood pressure screenings, glucose monitoring, cholesterol screenings, COVID-19 & Flu testing, and Community Health Worker services are accessible and free to the community. No appointments are necessary. Patient education materials are provided as well as referrals to health services.**
 - b. **Health promotion, in the NWCs, will be provided by Community Health Workers (CHW) with materials from partners including Wayne State University's Health Education department. The Health Department will also expand on the CHW work to ensure district Recreation Centers has one CHW housed there. Topics range from; mental health, physical activity/nutrition, environmental health, and chronic illnesses.**
 - c. **Immunization services will continue community outreach vaccinations to promote equitable access of vaccinations. An average of at least 2 outreaches will be conducted weekly with an increase during the summer and fall months.**

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- d. The Treatment without Borders initiative to decrease the number of congenital syphilis cases in Detroit is a grant to the Health Department in partnership with the MDHHS. This initiative will allow Public Health Nurses to treat and educate clients as well as provide HIV testing in the privacy of their home.**
- 3. Infrastructure & Public Health Innovations: Are there plans to integrate smart technology, such as telehealth hubs or data-driven public health interventions, into future community health initiatives?**

The Health Department has implemented telehealth capabilities which are a function of the Patagonia electronic medical records systems acquired in July 2023. Currently, this technology is used in the reproductive health, iDecide clinics. Our providers can use it to do virtual visits with patients to address needs that can be met through a virtual visit.

As well, the Health Department has finished the data collection and focus groups for the FY 24 Community Health Assessment which, once completed, will guide the development and implementation of the 5-year Health Improvement and Strategic Plan to address public health priorities voiced by the community. Other technology that will be useful to the department is Arc GIS spatial analysis software for our Epidemiology team and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heat & Health Tracker to assist the Emergency Preparedness Program and Epi Team to more effectively monitor and be proactive to weather and environmental emergencies for the City of Detroit.