

# Detroit Health Department

# Memo



**To:** David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division Director

**From:** Denise Fair Razo, Executive Director and Chief Public Health Officer

**Date:** March 25, 2025

**Re:** Responses to 2025-2026 Health Department Budget Analysis

Initial  
DFR

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 12, 2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for Health Department.

1. Please briefly explain the department's new expense initiatives, any new capital funding requests, operational reform and savings proposals, and new revenue initiatives/proposals to be implemented in FY 2026. Please provide which appropriation/cost center the new initiative/request/proposal that is impacted in FY 2026.
  - a. Please provide details on the Ride to Care program. What are the future funding expectations for this program?

**The Rides to Care program was launched on November 18, 2024, to provide free transportation for pregnant women in Detroit to attend pre- and post-natal care appointments. Additionally, caregivers of infants up to one year old can access free rides, ensuring all Detroit babies have the best chance for a healthy start in life. By offering convenient and reliable transportation, Rides to Care enhances access to essential healthcare, allowing pregnant women and infant caregivers to focus on their well-being. The program operates through a contract with the CCM call center, which handles ride requests, verifies eligibility, and schedules transportation using the City-contracted Uber Health platform. To support the program's reach and efficiency, three employees have been hired: two provider facilitators to promote awareness and accessibility within the Detroit community, and one customer service representative who serves as the primary point of contact for residents seeking assistance through Rides to Care and other related programs. Since its launch, the program has supported 664 Detroiters and facilitated 5,329 rides. The Department will continue to request \$1.2 million annually to sustain and expand the program, with an increased request included in the FY26 budget proposal under appropriation 29250, cost center 250020.**

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- b. Please provide details on the Neighborhood Wellness Centers activity and its future funding expectations.

**Funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS), the seven Neighborhood Wellness Centers are located in churches and other non-traditional sites throughout Detroit. Originally established as state-funded COVID testing clinics, these centers have since expanded to address broader community health needs. They provide free general health screenings, including blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol checks, and connect residents with Community Health Workers for assistance and referrals to additional programs and services. The funding also covers salaries and fringe benefits for 35 employees and will continue under MDHHS grant funding through Fund 2104, current appropriation 21423.**

- c. Please describe the Strengthening Detroit's Public Health Workforce grant and is this connected to item above.

**The Strengthening Detroit's Public Health Workforce grant is a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control that focuses on capacity building for organizational capabilities, data modernization, and workforce development. The primary goal is to ensure that local, county, state, and tribal health departments are adequately equipped to respond to the next emerging threat(s). This grant is not connected to either of the two previous grants in this question.**

2. On page B25-2, Under the Goals, Strategic Priorities and Related City Outcomes: the department plan to "foster innovative community partnerships that strengthen health and social programs and services", please describe the department initiatives with respect to mental health services and youth health concerns for FY 2026.

**Behavioral Health partners with schools, employers, senior facilities, and community-based organizations to enhance mental health and well-being through education, peer support groups, healing circles, and preventive care. Two team members conduct specialized interventions to address specific needs, like trauma, addiction, recovery and culturally sensitive mental issues.**

**We empower the community to recognize early signs of mental health challenges and take action. The Detroit Health Department's youth mental health initiative, 'Youth Unmute', is designed to address health concerns amongst young people that include depression, anxiety, grief and loss, suicide, body image, self-esteem, conflict**

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resolution, emotional regulation, and problem-solving. This program focuses on the unique challenges faced by DPSCD students and youth from other service organizations. Its aim is to equip young people to effectively advocate for themselves, reduce stigma surrounding mental health, and provide essential resources to help them navigate life's challenges with confidence and thrive.

3. On page B25-4, the Community Violence Intervention ARPA Program Continuation received one-time funding of \$4,375,000. Please discuss the status of this program and the outlook for the four-year financial plan period.

The ShotStoppers program received a total of \$11M in ARPA funding to fund an initial 2-year community violence intervention (CVI) program. CVI uses evidence-based, community driven strategies to prevent and interrupt violence by establishing relationships with people involved in or affected by violence in the community. The CVI program measures homicides and non-fatal shootings quarterly. The areas of the city with CVI groups present have seen reductions in violent crime by as much as 83% in previous quarters, contributing to Detroit's historic crime reductions over the last 2 years.

The continued investment will allow for this program to operate for an additional year, allowing CVI groups to maintain their base funding. If the state legislature approves the Public Safety Trust Fund, these funds would allow the program to continue and potentially expand.

4. On page B25-4, the Youth Substance Prevention Program is budgeted for \$63,200. What activity would the department undertake if more funding were allocated for this programming.

With additional funds, the Department would be able to reach more students in additional schools. We currently use a percentage of the 3 staff that were trained in the evidenced based curriculum "Too Cool for Drugs."

- a. How were the funds received from the opioid settlement utilized? Are there any new activities planned utilizing funds from this revenue source?

The funds received from Opioid Settlement were used to deploy 50 Harm Reduction Wellness Stations to increase 24-hour access to harm reduction supplies inclusive of Naloxone throughout the Detroit community. Additionally, staff conducted opioid education and Naloxone training with community members and organizations. Funds were also used to deploy

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**awareness campaigns to educate the Detroit community on the lifesaving power of Naloxone.**

**New Initiatives:**

**Enhance and broaden the availability of Peer Recovery Coach and Mentor services within the community, providing vital support to residents as they actively pursue and maintain their sobriety.**

**Peer Recovery coaches providing guidance, connecting residents to resources and helping them navigate treatment systems.**

**Conduct NA/AA Groups at Senior Apartments to reduce overdoses and relapses among the older population who abuse substances.**

- b. Why is there 4 FTE shown under Opioid Crisis Response but no dollar amount for FY 2026?

**The opioid settlement funds are treated as a grant, so the awarded funds balance forward each year. Consistent with the treatment of all grant-funded positions where the grant was appropriated in a prior fiscal year, the opioid crisis FTEs are presented without a proposed budget.**

5. Please provide an update on the Detroit ID Program. Has this program been impacted by recent federal policies?

**To date the Detroit ID has provided 4,442 ID cards to Detroiters. We offer the Detroit ID at 100 Mack and Patton Recreation Center.**

6. Total Expenditures exceed total revenues by \$13.9 million in FY 2026 due to a one-time expenditure of \$4.4 million. The FY 2026 budget is a status quo budget that maintains an overall net tax cost to the city of \$9-10 million and includes 8% growth for FY 2026 and 2% growth thereafter. Please discuss the current environment of federal cuts and how it may impact the Health Department's current, proposed and projected budgets included in the four-year financial plan.

- a. How much of the Health Dept budget is dependent on state or federal grants?

**For the FY2026 budget, grants fund 66% (\$34,140,217) of the total budget, supporting 184.5 of the Department's 284.5 FTEs. The Department's current grant portfolio consists of a mix of federal and state funding.**

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- b. Does the department have contingency plans for federal or state actions that may negatively impact its operations?

**The Department is currently working on a contingency plan to address these potential cuts and their impact on operations.**

- 7. On page B25-5, The Proposed FY 2026 Budget for Health has 284.50 total positions, up from the 247.50 positions in the FY 2025 Adopted Budget, an increase of 37. Total General Fund positions proposed for FY 2026 are 100.25, a decrease of 3.0 positions from the current budget and 3.25 positions less than actuals as of February 5, 2025. Grant positions total 184.25 positions, up 40 positions from the current year adopted budget and up 31.75 from actual positions as of February 5, 2025. Please explain the proposed increase in grant positions.

**Throughout FY2025, the Department completes position amendments to incorporate additional FTEs funded by increases to existing grants and new grant awards. These positions are now included in the FY2026 budget request.**

- a. Will all of the FY 2025 ARPA funded positions noted as 22 be folded into the grant funds or the general fund or will there be layoffs?

**The 22 ARPA positions will not be moved to the general fund or grants. Department leadership will evaluate current ARPA programming and make recommendations to the incoming administration on which programs to continue. It will be up to the next administration to make the final determination of whether or not to continue to fund these ARPA positions with general fund dollars moving forward.**

- 8. Currently, the department has actual positions of 277.50 as of February 5, 2025; 30 positions over the adopted budget of 247.50 for FY 2025.

- a. Please explain the net overage of 8 considering the 22 ARPA funded positions.

**Throughout FY2025, the Department completes position amendments to align the budget with departmental FTE needs. Eight of those General Fund filled FTEs are supported by federal COVID grant funding that is not reflected in FY26 proposed budget.**

- b. Briefly describe if the department has difficulty in filling certain positions.

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**The Department still has vacancies for specialized roles, including Environmental Health Specialists, registered dietitians, and nutritionists. We remain committed to collaborating with our colleagues in Human Resources to fill these positions as efficiently as possible.**

9. Please explain the change in positions for selected areas:

- a. Page B25-22: Appropriation 25251 – Food Service Code Enforcement- Food Sanitation decrease of 4 Environmental Specialist- 2 positions.

**These represent longstanding vacant positions that will no longer be needed in FY26.**

- b. Page B25-25: Appropriation 21237-251111 – Strengthening Detroit’s Public Health Workforce increase of 11 positions.

**Position amendments were made to align the Department's city budget with its overall budget by adding the necessary position.**

- c. Page B25-35: Appropriation 21473-251111 – Neighborhood Wellness Centers increase of 15.5 positions.

**Position amendments were made to align the Department's city budget with its overall budget by adding the necessary position.**

10. On page B25- 6 and 7: For 2026, total recurring expenditures increased by 8% and recurring revenues increased by 9.3% over the current fiscal year budget. Please explain the following year-over- year changes:

- a. Salary & Wages and Employee Benefits increased by 18.6% and 17.9%, respectively.

**36 FTE were added to the Health grants fund. For all funds, employee benefits increased by \$837,304. For all funds, salary & wages increased by \$2,918,466.**

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- b. Operating Supplies and Operating Services increased by 6.4% and decreased by - 1.3%, respectively.

**In the general fund, Operating Supplies increased by \$21,400, with an increase in Miscellaneous Operating Supplies, offset by decreases in Medical Operating Supplies, Office Supplies, and Chemicals Operating Supplies. In the grants fund, Operating Supplies increased by \$15,469, with an increase in Office Supplies, and decreases in Medical Operating Supplies and Miscellaneous Operating Supplies.**

**In the general fund, Operating Services decreased by \$9,575, in Advertising, Dues and Miscellaneous, and Private Car Reimbursements, and an increase in Cellular Voice Com Services. In the grants fund, Operating Services decreased by \$6,218.**

- c. Equipment acquisition increased by 54.8%, from \$101,500 to \$157,128.

**There is a \$78,000 increase in equipment acquisition in the grant fund spread across the WIC Resident Services 9/2026, WIC Breastfeeding 9/2026, ELPHS Other 9/2026, and the Neighborhood Wellness Centers grants. For the general fund, there is a \$22,380 decrease in equipment acquisition.**

- d. Other Expenses increase by 118.8%, from \$182,000 to \$390,859.

**In the general fund, Other Expenses increased by \$16,700, with an increase in Travel, Administrative Costs, and a decrease in Training costs. In the grants fund, Other Expenses increased by \$192,159, with increases in Travel and Training.**

- e. Revenues: Grants, Shared Taxes, & Revenues increased by 8.2%

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**In the health grants fund, there was a \$291,522 increase in federal grants, and a \$2,220,211 increase in state grants.**

- f. Sales & Charges for Services increased by 11.3%; and

**In the general fund, there was an \$400 increase in Other Fees, for the Health Department administration appropriation. In the health grants fund, there was a \$28,443 increase for Hospitals and Clinics.**

- g. Licenses, Permits, & Inspection Charges increased by 5.7%.

**There was a \$119,500 increase for Licenses, Permits, & Inspection Charges, with an increase in Other Health Inspection Charges, under the Communicable Disease Management and Food Service Code Enforcement appropriations.**

- 11. On page B25-8: Health Grant revenues increased by \$2.54 million for FY 2026 and include projected annual growth of 2%. Please explain the increase (new or existing programs).

**The Department was awarded two new grants – Neighborhood Wellness Centers and the Public Health Infrastructure that increased our revenues by the referenced \$2.54 million.**

- 12. What is the total amount of grant match required in the current fiscal year and for the proposed FY 2026 budget? Please list the grants and their required match funds.

**The Department's FY2026 request does not include a budget allocation for grant matching.**