Budget Basics: Public Health & Nutrition

FY 2019

An introduction to Missouri’s public health & nutrition services and funding
Public Health

Public health and nutrition services are funded through Missouri’s Division of Community and Public Health (DCPH). DCPH works with local public health agencies (LPHAs) and community partners to improve the health and well-being of Missourians through public health interventions and the analysis of health and longevity trends.

This primer is intended to serve as a guide for Missourians who care about public health and nutrition services. These services are funded through the Division of Community and Public Health (DCPH) budget, which is included in House Bill 10. Amounts included are Appropriated and reflect Gubernatorial vetoes, but not any mid-year restrictions that may have been made.

Public Health:

- 87,920 children tested for lead
- 75,000 newborn screenings
- 7 million analyses performed by state public health lab

Nutrition:

- SNAP: 810,690 people per month
- WIC: 115,908 women, infants, & children

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**Budget Basics**

Each year the state takes in and spends approximately $28 billion.

- About one third of the funds come from the federal government for very specific purposes.
- Another third is state revenue dedicated to specific state purposes, like the fuel tax, which is dedicated to transportation.
- Lawmakers have the most authority to allocate the final third, referred to as General Revenue.

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**Funding for the Division of Community and Public Health**

*Total DCPH Budget, by Source of Funding FY 2019*

- In FY 2019, $368.7 million is dedicated to the Division of Community and Public Health.¹
- The vast majority of funding (90%) for public health and nutrition comes from federal sources.
Public Health

The Division of Community and Public Health (DCPH) provides funding for a range of programs that support healthy and stable communities. DCPH coordinates the response to public health emergencies, directs programs that prevent and manages chronic and communicable disease, monitors and investigates environmental health hazards, conducts screenings for genetic conditions in newborns and maintains vital records and surveillance systems.

Public Health Agencies Help Deliver:

Emergency response
- Disaster preparedness education for nearly 470,000 Missouri families

Environmental Health
- 87,920 Missouri children are tested for lead.
- Inspected 6,350 child care facilities for environmental hazards.

Newborn screenings
- 75,000 Missouri newborns are screened for genetic disorders and hearing loss annually.

Vital records
- Over 1.4 million immunizations records
- Over 3.6 million donor registry enrollees

Disease prevention and control
- Monitored over 92,000 cases of communicable disease in Missouri.
Local Public Health Agencies (LPHA) and other partner organizations work with the DCPH to provide comprehensive public health services in Missouri. The 114 LPHAs in Missouri are locally governed and financially supported through local, state, and federal funds.

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) serves local public health agencies, hospitals and medical and law enforcement professionals around the state by conducting and confirming a range of tests related to public health. The MSPHL is located in Jefferson City with a branch location in Poplar Bluff.

In 2017 the Public Health Laboratory performed over 7 million analyses and tested 291,608 samples.

- Performed 90,581 newborn screenings
- Tested 69,459 samples of drinking water and 1,450 samples of food
- Issued 4,006 permits for breath alcohol analysis
- Distributed 305,747 test kits to LPHAs, hospitals, and private labs in Missouri.

Other revenue sources include federal and state funds used to reimburse LPHAs for services provided (such as home health services) that fall outside their core public health functions.
Nutrition

The federal government provides funding for several nutrition programs housed within the DHSS Division of Community and Public Health. These programs are aimed primarily at serving children, pregnant and postpartum women, seniors, and the homeless.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) provides vouchers for nutritious food, health screenings, nutrition counseling, and breastfeeding promotion and support. In order to qualify for WIC, a family’s income must be below 185% of the federal poverty level.

In FY2019, this program will serve 29,628 women, 32,293 infants, and 53,937 children.

Who qualifies for WIC?
- Pregnant women
- New mothers
- Infants
- Children up to age 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIC Recipients 2019 Projections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children: 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infants: 28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women: 26%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIC Income Guidelines*</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

*Pregnant women count as 2 household members

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides funding for nutritious meals and snacks served to children and adults in day care centers, after-school enrichment programs, and emergency homeless shelters. In FY2019, this program will serve over 37 million meals.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides funding for organizations to serve meals to low-income children age 18 and under when school is not in session. In FY2019, this program will serve over 5 million meals.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) provides a variety of nutritious food packages that are distributed to elderly qualified participants through the food bank network.
Nutrition

The federal government provides additional funding for limited nutrition assistance programs that serve low-wage Missourians, in addition to funding for related programs that provide job training and health education for recipients.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, provides assistance for low-wage Missourians to purchase food. Funding for SNAP benefits does not flow through the state budget, aside from the associated administrative costs. SNAP benefits cannot be withdrawn as cash or used to purchase alcohol, tobacco, prepared foods, or non-food items such as medicine or paper products.

SNAP are issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and benefits are loaded directly onto EBT cards. Thus, funding for SNAP benefit is not included in Missouri’s annual budget, aside from administrative costs (such as EBT and eligibility and enrollment costs).

SNAP served 328,660 households and 705,803 Missourians in November 2018. The average benefit was $256.82 per household and $119.59 per person.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Gross monthly household income (130% of poverty)</th>
<th>Maximum monthly benefit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,307</td>
<td>$192</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$2,213</td>
<td>$504</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$2,665</td>
<td>$640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SNAP Eligibility Requirements:

- Recipients must work or participate in a work program (with exceptions for children, seniors, the disabled, and pregnant women.)
- Must meet income requirements and cannot have assets that value more than $2,250 (or $3,250 for seniors).

Food Distribution Programs pay for the initial processing and packaging of the food and for transporting it to designated points (i.e. food banks) within each state for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

The Food Nutrition Program provides nutrition information, physical activity, food safety and food budgeting education to Food Stamp eligible individuals, especially to households with children in the home, at-risk pregnant and parenting teens, youth and seniors.

SkillUP provides Food Stamp participants opportunities to gain skills, training or experience that will improve their employment prospects and assists them to obtain and retain sustaining employment reducing their reliance on Food Stamp benefits.
Notes

1. Missouri Office of Administration Staff

2. Local Public Health Agency Financial Review Available at:
   http://health.mo.gov/living/lpha/review16/pdf/16STATE.pdf
