

**North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
2023 Legislative Priorities**

1. Recurring Local Public Health Funding

Seek \$25M in recurring state appropriation to LHDs. Funds to be prioritized for communicable disease response, but with flexibility for foundational public health services at the discretion of local health departments

2. Community Health Grant Funding

Explore reforms to the Community Health Grant fund allocation process to ensure equitable distribution of funding to LHDs as a key primary and maternal care safety net provider

3. OHSR Staffing Resources

Request resources for OSHR to hire additional staff to support local government hiring

4. Registered Environmental Health Specialist Requirement Reform

Reintroduce language from previous legislative session to ease pipeline issues for REHS staff among LHDs

5. Closing the Coverage Gap

Support efforts to close the health insurance coverage gap and bolster LHDs as safety net providers in North Carolina by expanding Medicaid Eligibility

6. Tobacco 21/Vape Sales

Support efforts to better regulate vape retailers to curtail the youth vaping epidemic