



For more information contact:  
Marsha A. Dadisman, Director  
Office of Communications  
WV Department of Health and Human Resources  
Telephone: (304) 558-7899  
Email: [marsha.a.dadisman@wv.gov](mailto:marsha.a.dadisman@wv.gov)

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## **CDC Funding Supports Local Health Department Improvements**

The WV Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health provided approximately \$400,000 in grant funding to West Virginia Local Health Incorporated. The money will be used to support local health departments. Through grants and activities sponsored by West Virginia Local Health Incorporated, local health departments will work individually and collectively to advance both capacity and capability in the public health system as well as improve efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of health department services to improve health outcomes.

Eighteen of the forty-nine local health departments in West Virginia will receive funds for activities such as conducting community health assessments, developing community health improvement plans and agency strategic planning. Additional funds are available through May 6 to support another round of applications by the local health departments.

"It is encouraging that West Virginia Local Health Incorporated is supporting all of the local health departments through these funds to truly improve the health of West Virginians," said Dr. Marian Swinker, BPH commissioner and state health officer. "It will take all of us working together to make a difference in every community."

The funding, made possible through the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the Affordable Care Act of 2010, is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. The program aims to make fundamental changes and enhancements in health department organizations and their practices to help to improve the delivery and impact of public health services.

Program funds support increasing health department operational efficiencies to ensure seamless and coordinated services and position local health departments to apply and achieve national-level accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The West Virginia Association of Local Health Departments recently met to participate in a national effort to improve operating efficiencies, quality and health outcomes. Many DHHR BPH officials attended the meeting.