



United Way
of Lancaster County

VISION:

We will be a key catalyst to improve lives.

MISSION:

To build a stronger Lancaster County by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

VALUES:

We are committed to building relationships-- seeking truthfulness, acting with compassion and respect, valuing fairness and fun and working accountably.

We are committed to being leaders-- seeking inclusiveness, acting with altruism, valuing innovation and working to impact our community.

What is a Public Health Department?

In 1951, Act 315 established regulations in Pennsylvania for the creation of local public health departments. Since that time, 5 counties and 5 cities in Pennsylvania have set up local departments. Lancaster County does not have any State supported health departments. The regulations stipulate the basic components and staff.

A public health department addresses three areas of public health.

1. Administrative and supportive services
 - data collection and analysis
 - coordination/collaboration
 - management
 - public education
 - laboratory services
2. Personal health
 - maternal and child health
 - communicable disease control (TB, STDs, HIV/AIDS)
 - chronic disease management
 - public health nursing services
3. Environmental health
 - water and sewer
 - food protection
 - vector control
 - institutional, recreational, and housing environment

Although the local health department is responsible for delivery of the above services, there are allowances for contracts with existing providers to avoid duplication of effort. In addition, the PA Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Protection cede some of their responsibilities to the local health department.

County government oversees the work of the public health department through appointment of a five-member Board of Health. The department employs at minimum an administrative director, medical director (could be part time), director of nursing, and environmental director. Additional staff is added as needed to provide and direct services.

Funding is provided through an allocation from the PA Department of Health (the lesser of 50% of budget or \$7.50 per capital), license fees, grants from the State or Federal government for specific program areas, and a small amount from the County budget.

A local health department is established through resolution of the County Commissioners or voter referendum.