



# Funding History

## El Paso County Department of Health and Environment

BASED ON FY 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

The majority of the Health Department's \$15,164,492 annual budget (2009) comes from grants/contracts (57%). El Paso County provides \$2,803,948 (18%) of the Health Department's total funding, and the State of Colorado contributes about 6% in per-capita funding to the Department's total budget. State per-capita funding to the Health Department was reduced in 2002, eliminated from 2003-2005 and reinstated in 2006.

**Please note:** County funding is allocated for core public health protection. Grant and contract funding is restricted for specific purposes approved by grantors. Each El Paso County taxpayer pays less than \$5 per year for core public health protection.

Since 2001, the Health Department has experienced significant and frequent funding cuts at the County level—totaling nearly \$2.3 million or 45%. Over the same time period, numerous programs and services have been scaled back or eliminated, in addition to staffing reductions.

In 2009, the County reduced the Health Department's budget by \$500,000 and the Department cut spending by \$1,675,500 in order to balance their budget, resulting in a reduction of 37 FTEs representing an 18% workforce reduction. Total workforce reduction since 2000 is 29%.

### History of Health Department County Funding Challenges:

2001 Funding: **\$5,102,699**

2002 Funding Cut: **\$191,751**

2003 Informed of **\$1,100,000** in funding cuts over next 3 years—2004 thru 2006  
(See breakdowns below)

- 2004 Funding Cut: **\$400,000**
- 2005 Funding Cut: **\$400,000**
- 2006 Funding Cut: **\$300,000**

2007 Funding: **\$3,810,948**

2008 Mid-year Funding Cut: **\$507,000**

2008 Funding: **\$3,303,948**

2009 Funding Cut: **\$500,000**

Total El Paso County funding to Health Department in 2009: **\$2,803,948**

**Total County Funding Reduction (2001 to 2009): -\$2,298,751**

**Note, Health Department cut spending by \$1,675,500 in 2009 to balance budget**

### History of County Per-capita Funding for Public Health Services:

2001 County Per-capita Funding: **\$9.56**

2007 County Per-capita Funding **\$6.40**

2008 County Per-capita Funding (based on projected county population): **\$5.35**

**2009 County Per-capita Funding \$4.63\***

Total Local Per-capita Funding Decrease (2001-2009): **-\$4.93**

*\*When compared to the 10-county grouping data for Colorado (October 2008), combined with Denver, the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment receives the lowest local per-capita funding.*

### **History of Staffing:**

2000: **251 full-time equivalents (FTEs)**

Total Staffing Reductions (2000-2009): **73 FTEs**

*Population has increased nearly 100,000 while staffing decreased (2009 population estimate is 605,031)*

National **median** number of full-time employees for public health agencies serving populations of 500,000-plus is **363**. (NACCHO 2005 Report)

### **Previously Impacted Programs/Services (2001 – 2008):**

- Prenatal Care eliminated
- Well-child Assessments eliminated
- Child Care Nurse Consultations eliminated
- Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Program — child health component of Medicaid eliminated
- Outpatient Laboratory Services for the general public eliminated
- Tuberculosis (TB) Services—treatment for low-risk, latent infection cases eliminated
- Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention—targeting prevention efforts towards adolescents, adults and moms, in addition to school outreach eliminated
- Methadone Clinic—for individuals rehabilitating from heroin addictions eliminated
- Refugee Communicable Disease Screening eliminated
- Criminal Justice Center Testing for sexually transmitted diseases eliminated
- Motor Vehicle Injury Prevention Education eliminated
- Methamphetamine Lab Clean-ups and Regulation eliminated
- Chronic Disease Prevention—reduced collaboration with the community for chronic disease prevention
- SAFE-Teen Suicide Prevention and Training in Schools eliminated
- Infectious Disease Prevention and Investigation Services— resulting in reduced investigation/response to infectious disease and health data analysis
- STD Medical Services— resulting in reduced screening, diagnosis and treatment services
- IT/EHS Project Manager—resulting in reduced technology assistance for Environmental Health Services thus decreasing timely public access to the results of health department inspections.

## **Impacts in 2009:**

Programs/services impacted:

### **Air Quality:**

- Elimination of monitoring air quality at stations located in Manitou (ozone), Air Force Academy (ozone), Highway 24 (carbon monoxide), and Colorado College (particulates).
- Elimination of about 209 inspections of stationary pollutants sources (such as emission of particulate matter and nitrogen oxide).
- Elimination of the inspection of 386 registered facilities that use chlorofluorocarbons CFCs (refrigerants).
- Elimination of local enforcement of regulations controlling dust (particulates) created by construction, demolition, sandblasting and other activities.

### **Solid Waste:**

- No response to solid waste complaints including household trash, animal waste, foreclosed properties. About 70 complaints received per year.

### **Animal to Human Diseases:**

- No surveillance or reporting of West Nile Virus (WNV) activity within the county.
- No evaluation of plague threats (prairie dog or rodent die off – no testing to confirm whether cause of die off was plague).
- Limited environmental investigation of hantavirus cases.
- Limited testing of animals for rabies - only for animals that have bitten or otherwise potentially exposed humans to rabies. No testing for pet exposures to rabies.

### **Water Quality:**

- Elimination of environmental planning reviews for land development and new construction as it relates to drinking water quality and wastewater services.
- Elimination of inspections of non-community ground water systems (those outside of Colorado Springs). About 60 inspections are conducted each year.
- Elimination of inspections of swimming pools and spas. There are 173 facilities that contain 301 water fixtures in EPC.

### **School safety:**

- No longer involved with education and enforcement of school safety regulations (sanitation, science rooms, chemical storage and general safety). About 243 schools inspected per year.

### **Child Care Inspections: (Board of Health to Consider Reinstatement 4/1/09)**

- No inspections for child care centers. There are approximately 400 centers in EPC.
- Will only respond to public complaints of disease outbreaks and/or high-risk infectious disease.

### **STD surveillance and investigation:**

- Approximately 3200 STDs reported to EPCDHE each year.
- No local investigation of reported infections and their contacts.
- Anticipate greater spread of STDs – potentially leading to more complications in women.
- Local medical community will end up taking greater burden in managing STDs and healthcare providers will not have access to tracking data from the Health Department that links cases and eliminates further infections.

### **Suspended temporary food (event) inspections:**

- No assurance that agency hosting the event is following proper food handling practices. Risk to public increased for foodborne illness.
- Severely inhibit any outbreak investigation should one occur because we would have no advance information about the temporary event and type of food served