

**County  
Health Officials  
of New York**  
Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

# EXECUTIVE LETTER



**Daniel J. Stapleton, MBA**  
President, Director



**Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES**  
Executive Director

## Strengthening Local Health Departments While Navigating Change: Celebrating 40 Years in Service

Without hesitation, local health departments serve on the front lines of all emerging public health crises while protecting the health, safety and well-being of the residents they serve. The year 2019 presented many emerging public health threats and policy changes that New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) members navigated swiftly, while working to raise awareness around the need for maximized statewide public health infrastructure. The opioid crisis, a measles outbreak exacerbated by vaccine hesitancy; adult-use cannabis; rising rates of sexually transmitted infections; lead poisoning and emergency response to flooding were a few of the important public health issues our members confronted throughout the last year. During this time, NYSACHO led the way to shape policy and advocate on behalf of local health departments at both State and Federal levels.

NYSACHO members also embarked on

a collaborative process to update and adopt NYSACHO's 5-year 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. The strategic priorities identified by members include:

1. Member Engagement and Leadership Development
2. Advocacy and Influence
3. Programs and Services to Members
4. Administration and Resource Development

We are excited to carry out the actions outlined within this plan to improve the many ways in which NYSACHO serves and supports its membership. Thank you to the Commissioners, Directors and staff from New York State local health departments who dedicate their time and lived experiences to our operations. Our accomplishments over the past year are due to your dedication to NYSACHO.

Congratulations on 40 incredible years of service to local health departments in New York State. We look forward to another year-long journey in 2020.

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## OUR VISION

NYSACHO is recognized as the collective voice of local health departments, leading policy, education, and advocacy to create healthy and safe communities in New York State.



## OUR MISSION

NYSACHO supports, advocates for, and empowers local health departments in their work to promote health and wellness and prevent disease, disability and injury throughout New York State.

## OUR VALUES



### ■ COLLABORATION

Working together with others to promote excellence in public health through the exchange of ideas, programs and policies.

### ■ INTEGRITY

Ensuring transparent, ethical and accountable performance.

### ■ RESPECT

Showing regard for self and others and maintaining an environment of teamwork, growth and enhancement.

### ■ COMMITMENT

Building passion and shared responsibility to achieve our goals.

### ■ LEADERSHIP

Developing and exemplifying the courage to set a course of action and shape the future of public health.

### ■ EMPOWERMENT

Leveraging our knowledge and experience to achieve success with special emphasis on health equity and health in policy framework.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020



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Niagara County  
Department of Health



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Cattaraugus County  
Department of Health



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Genesee and Orleans Counties  
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Ulster County  
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# LEADING PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND ADVOCACY



*Paul A. Pettit, NYSACHO President/ Immediate Past President, Director of Public Health, Genesee/Orleans delivers budget testimony to members of the Senate and Assembly during the hearing on Health and Medicaid.*

To sustain New York's public health system, it is critical that the role of each local health department continues to be recognized as an essential service. Ensuring the availability of funding to public health programs will allow counties to mitigate threats to their communities and protect citizens.

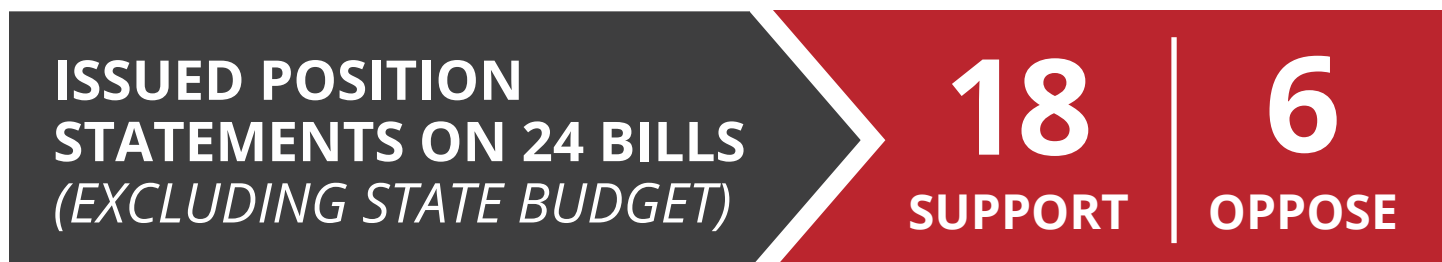
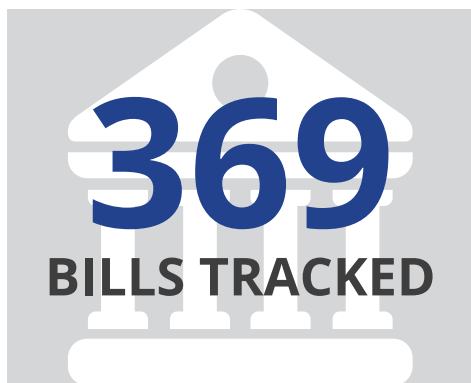
When progressive public health policies are passed into law, local health departments are on the front lines to implement and adjust to new mandates with existing, limited staffing and budgets. It is critical that we continue to remind policy makers that public health responses require public health resources.

Members of NYSACHO's board participated in a budget lobby day in Albany to discuss State funding for general public health work (Article Six State Aid); lead poisoning prevention; early intervention services for children with special health needs; adult-use cannabis legalization; tobacco control policies and immunization programs.

Post-budget, staff coordinated and members participated in a public health lobby day with partners from the New York State Public Health Association to bring visibility to and educate lawmakers on the role of local health departments and importance of protective public health policies.

## 2019 Legislative Successes:

1. A.558-A, S.2833 Tobacco 21, enacted to law
2. A.2371, S.2994 Elimination of non-medical exemptions for vaccine school entry requirements, enacted
3. A.5779, S.1028 Lowered definition of elevated blood lead levels, enacted
4. Budget inclusion of 5% rate increase for licensed early intervention providers
5. Standstill of adult-use cannabis legalization proposal



*NYSACHO members visit with leaders from the New York State Executive Chamber to discuss Budget priorities.*



*Sarah Ravenhall delivers testimony to the Assembly Minority Task Force on Water Quality.*



*NYSACHO President, Daniel J. Stapleton speaks at a press conference to highlight the association's opposition and concerns about a proposal that would legalize adult-use cannabis in New York State.*



*NYSACHO Executive Director, Sarah Ravenhall visits Congressional Leaders on the Hill in Washington, DC with partners from the National Association of County and City Health Officials.*



The year 2019 brought about leadership changes in the New York State Senate. NYSACHO leadership worked with NYSACHO's outside lobbyist and communications specialist to forge and strengthen relationships with new and long-time legislative leaders, as well as with the executive leadership at the Governor's office and New York State Department of Health. NYSACHO engaged policy-makers on NYSACHO's key legislative priorities and educated them about the work of local health departments, and also drafted and proposed amendments to legislation that would further NYSACHO members' goals. NYSACHO staff also worked closely with a large array of other stakeholder organizations, expanding the organization's network to further public health policy goals. As a result, NYSACHO was invited to present public comment on a variety of key public health concerns.

Participation in Testimonies and Hearings Include:

- Senate Public Hearing on Suicide and Suicide Prevention
- Assembly Minority Hearing on Water Quality
- Senate Public Hearing on Vaping

NYSACHO leadership also expanded the organization's media presence, issued 14 press releases and participated in 10 press conferences during 2019 to speak about public health policies including: tobacco control policies, legalization of adult-use cannabis and school vaccination requirements.



# PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

The New York State Association of County Health Officials partners with the New York State Department of Health to deliver robust and collaborative programming for its membership. NYSACHO monthly membership meetings are the primary forum for peer-to-peer networking, driving committee work and making critical policy decisions.

This year marked the first annual Public Health Partnership Conference between NYSACHO and NYSPHA, held in Cortland, NY. This conference attracted a diverse audience of participants representing local government; academia; community-based organizations; hospitals; insurers and beyond.



*NYSACHO members at Greek Peak pose with Matthew Penn, JD, MLIS, Director, Office of Public Health Law, CDC's Center for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.*



*County Health Officials meet in Clayton, NY for NYSACHO's Annual Public Health Leadership Summit. Conference Keynotes included: Michael Fraser, PhD, CAE, Vice President and CEO, of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; Gary Ginsberg, PhD, Director, Center for Environmental Health, NYSDOH and Lora Santilli, Director, Office of Public Health Practice, NYSDOH.*

## Key Successes by Program Area:

Select NYSACHO activities are funded in part by contracts secured from the New York State Department of Health and Columbia University Region 2 Public Health Training Center. Thank you to our contract partners for supporting our programmatic activities; providing subject matter expertise and engaging local health departments in their initiatives.

### Environmental Health

- Annual Environmental Health Summit
- Webinar on Cancer Incidence in Rural Communities
- Webinar on Lead Poisoning Prevention and Elevated Blood Lead Levels
- Webinar on Lead in School Drinking Water
- Convened Cooling Tower Protocol Workgroup

### Early Intervention

- Statewide Early Intervention Meeting
- Web Series on Bridges out of Poverty
- EI Fiscal Workgroup

### Immunization

- Annual Statewide Immunization Meeting
- 6 Regional Adult Immunization Coalition Meetings: In partnership with the University at Albany School of Public Health, NYSACHO provided credits to approximately 750 participants
- Advancement of the Campaign to ImmuNYze all New Yorkers

### Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

- Project Public Health Ready Technical Assistance
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness Webinar
- Annual Meeting with NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Management, to Review PHEP Contract Deliverables
- Development of PHEP “*compelling stories from the field*” to Demonstrate the Value of and Critical Needs to Maintain PHEP Funding.

### General Public Health Works

- Statewide Community Level Strategies: Confronting the Opioid Epidemic
- Co-Sponsorship of the New York State Population Health Summit
- Webinar on Project TEACH
- Webinar on Maternal Child Health Data Dashboard
- HCV Surveillance Workgroup
- Article 28 Regulatory Workgroup
- 2020 State Aid Application Workgroup

### Other Program Highlights

- NYSACHO hosted call with SACCHO’s from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey to discuss a multi-state approach to adult-use cannabis and vaping.
- NYSACHO adopted a Health Equity and Social Justice Statement supporting the incorporation and adoption of principles of social justice into everyday public health practice in order to eliminate the root causes of health inequities. Based on those principles, NYSACHO encouraged local health departments to act directly, with allies, on structures of inequality and violence associated with class, race, gender, and sexual orientation, as they are bound with imbalances in political power.
- NACCHO Annual Meeting, Orlando Florida
- APHA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



NYSACHO members attend and present during the 2019 NACCHO Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

### Communications Snapshot



**452** Social Media Posts



**107** Member Technical Assistance Requests Received and Responded To

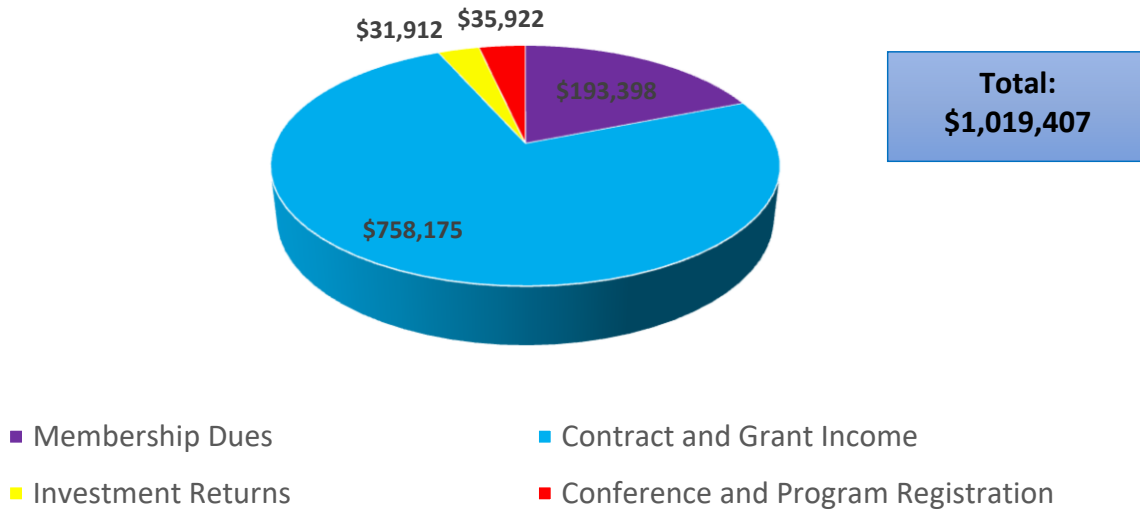


**46** NYSACHO Newsletters Distributed

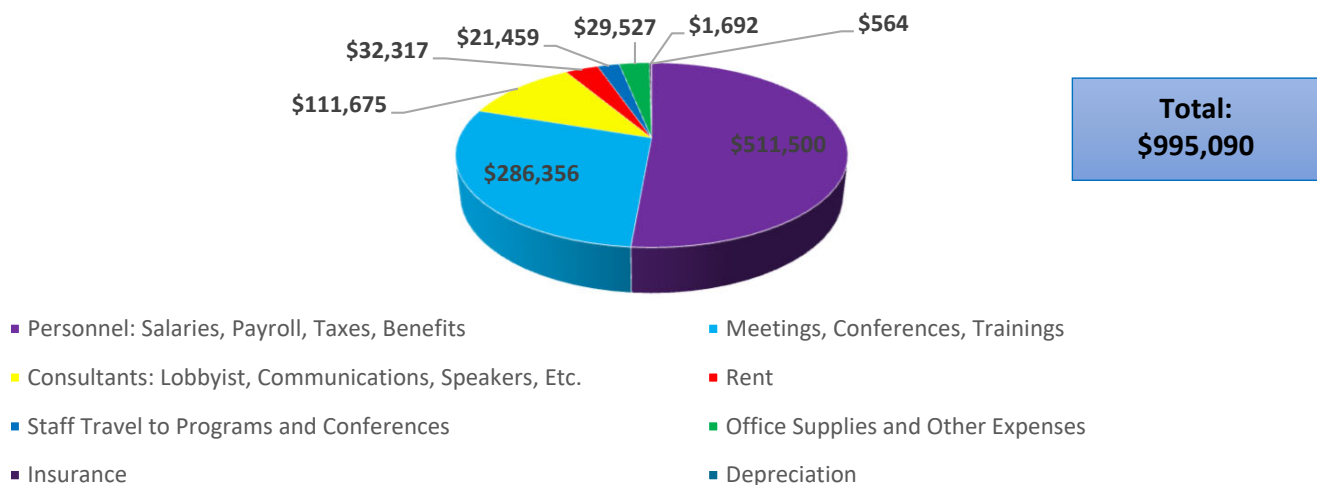


# FINANCIAL REPORT

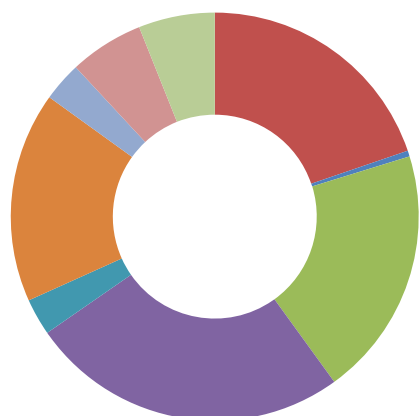
## NYSACHO Revenue Sources | Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019



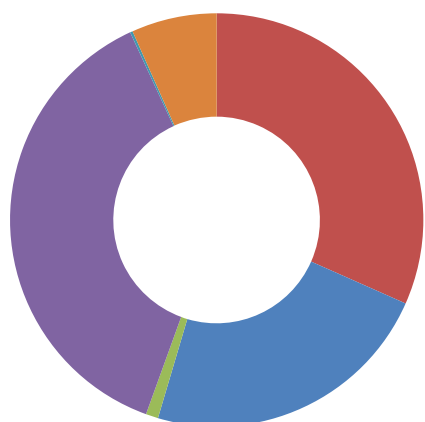
## NYSACHO Expenditures | Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019



## NYSACHO Cash Flows | Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019



## NYSACHO Current Assets | Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019



## NYSACHO Cash Liabilities | Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2019

