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\$30 MILLION ANNOUNCED FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE CRITICAL FOR NEW YORK'S 58 LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Statement by NYSACHO President Kevin D. Watkins, MD, MPH Concerning Governor Cuomo's Announcement Earlier Today: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-more-30-million-enhance-covid-19-contact-tracing-and-flu-prevention>

“We are grateful to the Governor for these funds and for the recognition of the intensive work being led by local health departments in response to the pandemic. Contact tracing is extremely demanding, requiring an assembly of public health first responders on the ground to identify and stop the transmission of the virus.

“Multiple years of reductions in state funding to local health departments have weighed heavily in our overall response capabilities. The funds announced today will be vital in meeting the short term pandemic response needs. We look forward to engaging in a broader discussion about the long-term commitment needed to restore, sustain and strengthen our public health safety net, at the center of which are New York’s 58 local health departments.”

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