



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 2, 2023
For More Information, Please Contact:
Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO
518-527-3547

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS' STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE BUDGET PROPOSAL

By Sarah Ravenhall, NYSACHO Executive Director

(Albany, New York) "Governor Hochul's 2023-2024 Executive Budget proposal demonstrates a genuine commitment to improving public health by delivering on a number of priorities.

"Key elements of the proposal include further restricting flavored tobacco and vaping products, providing regulatory relief to local health departments for certain public health in home care services, maximizing federal aid to replace lead pipes in drinking water supplies, and the expansion of Hepatitis C screening for adults and third trimester syphilis testing for pregnant women. NYSACHO strongly supports all of these initiatives.

"Additionally, the Governor's proposal to re-establish a State Department of Health regional office in Central New York and bolster support for DOH's existing regional office network is most welcome.

"We are also encouraged by the Governor's proposal to prevent child lead poisoning in high-risk areas. However, the proposed budget fails to include the funding necessary to meet the requirements of a state law enacted in 2019 that lowered from 10 to 5 micrograms per deciliter the actionable blood lead level necessary to trigger numerous public health interventions for children age 6 and under. That law which focuses on children already exposed to lead hazards was never fully funded and will require an additional 36M for local health departments statewide to implement locally.

"Due to these funding deficiencies, New York's approach to childhood lead poisoning remains in a reactive, post-exposure treatment model. The state must provide the funds necessary to transition to an effective prevention model that will save thousands of children from exposure and the detrimental impact of lead poisoning. We will continue our work with the Governor and the Legislature to add this critical funding into the state budget."

###