



County
Health Officials
of New York
Leading the way to healthier communities



2022
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Who We Are

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 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.

O U R V A L U E S

INTEGRITY



Ensuring transparent, ethical and accountable performance.

LEADERSHIP



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

COLLABORATION



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

EMPOWERMENT



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

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.

Board of Directors

Interim President



Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH
Commissioner of Health
Nassau County

Vice President/Treasurer



Paul Pettit, MSL, CPH
Public Health Director
Genesee/Orleans County

Past President



Carol Smith, MD, MPH
Commissioner of Health and Mental Health
Ulster County



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Public Health Director
Cayuga County



Diane Devlin, RN, BSN, MS
Director of Public Health
Wayne County



Wei Xia
Acting CFO/Deputy Commissioner
New York City



Linda Beers MPH
Public Health Director/Director of Services
for Children with Disabilities
Essex County



Heidi Bond, BSN, CPH
Director of Public Health/
Director of Patient Services
Otsego County



**Michael Mendoza, MD, MPH,
MS, FAAFP**
Commissioner of Public Health
Monroe County

Elected in 2022: Amy Gildemeister (Schoharie County); Sami Jarrah (NYC); Nancy McGraw (Sullivan County); Patricia Schnabel Ruppert (Rockland County); Christine Schuyler (Chautauqua County)

Executive Letter



Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH
Interim President; Commissioner



Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES
Executive Director

This year's annual report is centered around the historic successes that NYSACHO leaders and members achieved in the Fiscal Year 2023 New York State Budget. For the first time in nearly 10 years, we successfully worked with New York State's leadership and Legislature to secure a long-needed Article 6 base grant increase for all local health departments, as well as an allowance for fringe benefit costs to be charged and reimbursed through Article 6 state aid. This change will undoubtedly support NYSACHO's members' ability to hire and retain staff and enhance local public health infrastructure and emergency response capabilities.

We can credit this influx of resources to the tireless response efforts local health departments led in their communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing public health's visibility tenfold and illuminating the instrumental, life-saving role local health departments play during emergencies, coupled with a dynamic campaign effort led by the NYSACHO Team.

Aside from these well-earned fiscal achievements, local health departments continue to grapple with a mass exodus of long-standing and skilled public health leaders from their positions within governmental public health agencies. With every county health official who leaves the field, decades of public health experience and expertise are lost. The skilled team at NYSACHO has taken actions to assist our members in navigating gaps in employment, training new staff and leaders, and evaluating trends in the public health workforce across New York State.

One key example of these efforts is the enumeration of local health department staff NYSACHO conducted in 2022. This study unveiled that local health department face barriers to hiring key positions including public health nurses, epidemiologists, and environmental engineers and sanitarians due to low salaries and private-sector competition. In addition, we have seen concerning increases in local health department vacancy rates between 2019 and 2021, in the midst of COVID-19 response efforts. Moving forward, NYSACHO will continue to analyze and assess local health department staffing levels on an annual basis, and further, assess the impact of increased Article 6 State Aid on local health department staff capacity, as well as barriers to utilizing the funding.

There is no lack of strength in the continued comradery, sharing of best practices, and mentorship within NYSACHO. Our team has worked diligently throughout the year to welcome and onboard new members by providing technical assistance, connecting with mentors, and providing opportunities to connect with state, federal, and local leadership in public health.

During NYSACHO's annual Public Health Leaders Summit in October, NYSACHO was visited by Dr. Celeste Phillip from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Ursula Bauer, Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Director of the Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health, and Courtney Burke from the Healthcare Association of New York State to discuss better ways to collaborate across sectors.

Exciting opportunities lie ahead for NYSACHO's membership in 2023. This year, we will be working toward achieving Article 28 and Article 36 licensing reforms and securing enhanced funding to support the life-saving lead poisoning prevention work led by local health departments. Another focus of the association will be supporting our members through navigating the backlash related to public health policies and guidelines that has become increasingly prevalent following the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, we aim to bring communications and framing experts to the table to assist our members with communicating the value of public health with lawmakers, local leaders, and the public.

Congratulations on an outstanding year! NYSACHO thanks all the hard working and tireless public health professionals who have persevered through this challenging time. We are honored to continue to serve local health officials and elevate the importance of public health across the great State of New York.



Policy & Advocacy

During the 2022–2023 State Budget session, after years of advocacy groundwork, the Legislature and Executive moved forward NYSACHO’s proposal to increase the yearly base grant for general public health work from \$650,000 to \$750,000 or \$1.30 per capita, whichever is greater, and for partial service local health departments, from a discretionary prorated amount of \$500,000 to \$577,500. The enacted budget also changed Article 6 state aid to include eligibility for fringe expenses up to 50% of personnel costs.

\$51.4M

**FUNDING
SECURED**

NYSACHO drafted Chapter 539 of the Laws of 2022 and identified legislative sponsors who introduced and championed the bill to enactment. This legislation strengthens financial responsibility for human post-exposure treatment for rabies by requiring third-party insurers to accept local health department authorization for treatment as prior authorization. Additionally, this law ensures that health care providers accept payments by the county health authority for human post-exposure treatment at a rate set by the commissioner of health and provides that such reimbursement shall be no less than the Medicaid rate.

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**BILLS
TRACKED**

NYSACHO also negotiated Chapter 248 of the Laws of 2022 – requiring non-regulated children's camps to ascertain whether an employee or volunteer is listed on the National Sex Offender Registry. NYSACHO successfully advocated to change the original bill language, which would have greatly expanded existing children’s camp mandates by requiring permitting and regulation of all single purpose day camps, to the final statute which more specifically addressed bill sponsor concerns regarding employee and volunteer background checks at unregulated day camps registered under the general business law.

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**BILLS
CHAPTERED**

Other chaptered legislation of note for 2022 included Chapters 378 and 130. Chapter 378 of the Laws of 2022 prohibits smoking in public parks, including public beaches, pools, boardwalks, marinas, playgrounds, recreation centers, and group camps; and any equipment, buildings, and facilities under the jurisdiction, charge, or control of any state or local government agency or department that are located at such parks; excluding the Adirondack or Catskill parks as those terms are defined in section 9-0101 of the environmental conservation law. Chapter 130 of the Laws of 2022 amended statutory changes enacted in 2021 regarding testing of potable water systems in schools for the presence of lead, to allow for a commissioner’s waiver of testing provided that the school district has substantially complied with testing requirements and has been found to be below regulated lead levels. NYSACHO advocated for retention of this waiver option to allow this flexibility for compliant school districts.

2022 ADVOCACY SUCCESSSES INCLUDED

In 2022, New York State saw a historic three concurrent statewide imminent threats to public health (ITPHs) declared for COVID-19, mpox and polio. NYSACHO advocated for the Commissioner of Health to institute these ITPHs to ensure local health departments received adequate funding to provide swift and appropriate responses to the COVID-19, mpox and polio outbreaks in their communities.

This year also saw NYSACHO membership develop and adopt a Gun Violence and Injury Prevention policy statement – focused on a public health approach to preventing gun violence that addresses both firearm access and the factors that contribute to and protect from gun violence. Key recommendations include supporting policy efforts to fund and support enhanced data collect

ion, research, resources for localities to address trauma, implementation of evidence-based policies and practices, gun violence education, firearm safety for children, and other cross-sector strategies.

Throughout the year NYSACHO continued to be actively engaged in policy and advocacy work around regulatory activity, particularly regarding the regulated adult-use cannabis market. We provided public comment regarding packaging, labeling, marketing, and advertising regulations for adult-use cannabis products. NYSACHO also provided public comment regarding proposed changes to Early Intervention regulations, adding mpox as an STI, setting maximum contaminant levels (MCLS) for emerging contaminants, communicable disease investigation, and HIV reporting.

NYSACHO also advanced our administrative advocacy efforts surrounding the following important issues for local health departments – 1115 federal Medicaid waiver program, early intervention telehealth guidance, implementation of the early intervention covered lives assessment, early intervention transportation costs, children’s camp vaccination requirements, waivers for Licensed Home Care Services Agencies (LHCSA) requirements, and recommendations on funding to the state Opioid Settlement Board.

- Obtained Article 6 yearly base grant increase and Article 6 state aid eligibility for fringe expenses
- Drafted Chapter 539 of the Laws of 2022 to strengthen financial responsibility for human rabies post-exposure treatment
- Negotiated Chapter 248 of the Laws of 2022 – requiring non-regulated children's camps to ascertain whether an employee/volunteer is listed on the National Sex Offender Registry.
- Chapter 378 of the Laws of 2022 – prohibiting smoking in public parks
- Chapter 130 of the Laws of 2022 – amending statutory changes regarding testing of potable water systems in schools for the presence of lead
- Advocated for ITPHs for mpox and polio outbreaks
- Adopted Gun Violence and Injury Prevention Policy Statement
- Provided public comment regarding packaging, labeling, marketing, and advertising regulations for adult-use cannabis products

Programmatic Work

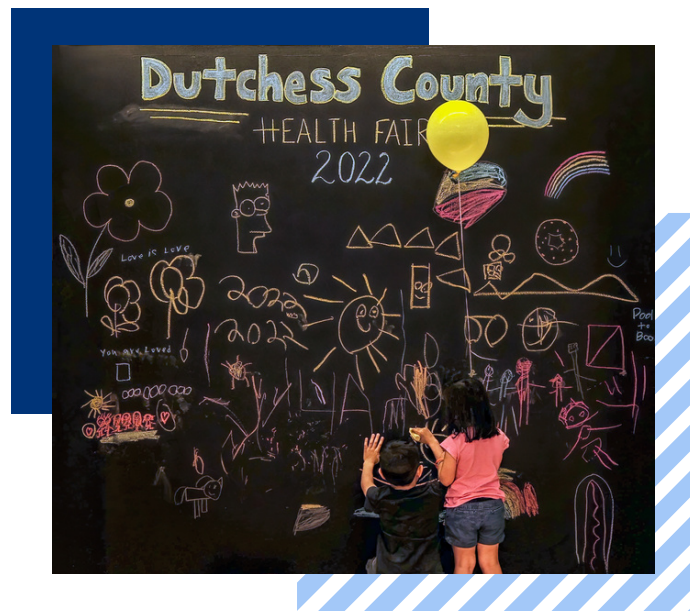
2022 was a year of noteworthy expansion for NYSACHO. Throughout the year, the NYSACHO team greatly amplified the programmatic work and technical assistance, training, and education we provide to our members. New to the portfolio, NYSACHO hosted a series of Climate Change Adaptation Workshops to allow local health departments and their community partners to discuss ongoing climate work and engage in discussions on how to advance priority areas for their communities. NYSACHO also received funding from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) for Harm Reduction technical assistance, training, and communications to support local health departments as they respond to the ongoing opioid overdose crisis and related drug use challenges in their communities.

NYSACHO expanded on our vaccine equity contract work by providing information and resources to address vaccine barriers and hesitancy in communities and populations with low COVID-19 vaccination rates. We continued to send out monthly sample social media posts with COVID-19 vaccine messaging, as well as other vaccine preventable diseases, and began providing Spanish translations of our posts to reach a wider audience. We began work on a series of Vaccine Equity Toolkits, informed by feedback from local health departments, to target under-vaccinated populations, including young children, unhoused people, Orthodox Jewish communities, and Amish and Mennonite communities. In the summer, we hosted a series of Vaccine Equity Lunch & Learn webinars focused on barriers and solutions to vaccination within minority communities.

2022 also saw NYSACHO expand our committee work, establishing a Rural Health Committee to better assist and advocate for rural local health departments as they address the unique health disparities their communities face. NYSACHO's Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA) Committee was re-established to support those local health departments still operating public certified home health agencies by discussing clinical and administrative concerns and sharing information and best practices.



Due to turnover of public health leaders during the pandemic, NYSACHO arranged and hosted a 4-part Commissioner and Director Orientation webinar series during the Spring. At NYSACHO's fall Public Health Leaders Summit, we also offered an in-person orientation for new directors and commissioners, featuring a panel with state health department staff and seasoned local health department directors and commissioners. State and federal keynote speakers who attended the Summit included: Dr. Celeste Phillip from the CDC; Dr. Ursula Bauer, Carol Rodat and Dr. Douglas Fish from the NYSDOH; and Courtney Burke and Dr. Wouter Rietsema from the Health Care Association of New York State.



During this time, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the public health workforce was coming to the forefront of the national public health landscape, which led NYSACHO to collaborate with the Intermountain COVID-19 Impact Consortium, consisting of SUNY Oneonta and the Bassett Research Institute. Together, our agencies worked to survey participating local health departments. Findings were disseminated in the report “Experiences of Public Health Workers in New York State”, which was subsequently published as a manuscript in the Journal of Public Health Reports. This study found that during COVID-19 response, public health workers in New York State experienced fatigue, bullying or harassment by the public which led them to consider leaving their jobs, and concerns about being exposed to COVID-19 during the workday. This report ultimately recommended that stronger state laws are needed to protect frontline public health workers against harassment, and additionally workforce incentives and commensurate funding are needed to bolster the existing public health workforce.

In response to some of the issues surrounding public health workforce fatigue and burnout, in the spring and early summer of 2022, NYSACHO partnered with the New York State Public Health Association to host a webinar series for public health leaders focused on building resiliency. The series consisted of six webinars with topics covering leading through change, strategies to build resilience, navigating conflict, and building and supporting a sustainable workforce.

The NYSACHO Team led this work, all while supporting local health departments as they responded to multiple emerging public health crises throughout the year, including polio and mpox. In June 2022, the first case of mpox, a contagious viral infection that produces a rash with lesions, was identified in New York State. Since then, over 4,238 cases have been identified across the state, with more than 300 identified outside of New York City. To assist local health departments with encouraging vaccination among at risk populations, particularly the LGBTQIA+ community, NYSACHO developed an mpox vaccine social media toolkit.

In late July 2022, the first known polio case in the US since 1990 was identified in Rockland County, in downstate New York. Concerned about the virus's ability to spread quickly across the state and nation due to low polio immunization rates, which have been declining for years due to growing misinformation and vaccine skepticism, local health departments throughout the state worked to increase vaccinations uptake. Thanks in no small part to the hard work of the local health department workforce, both emergencies have now been declared over in New York State.

Additionally, NYSACHO continued to bring awareness to the efforts of local health departments during COVID-19 vaccine rollout, with Phase 2 of our In-Progress Review. Across the initial In-Progress Review, conducted during the apex stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this Vaccine Addendum, several key themes were consistent in both study phases. Recurrent challenges included funding and staffing constraints and intra-governmental collaboration. However, local health departments were often able to identify solutions to these barriers through the use of partnerships with county agencies and community organizations, cross-training employees to expand operating capacity, and regional collaboration with other local health departments. These findings highlight both the resilience and resourcefulness of local health departments, and that serious consideration should be given to the current investment in and capacity of the local public health workforce. These results were disseminated in a manuscript published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and during a presentation at HRSA's 2022 Bureau of Health Workforce Virtual All Grantee & Stakeholder Meeting.

To bring further visibility to the importance of well-staffed and funded local health departments, NYSACHO also completed our first Enumeration Study, with plans for an annual survey to assess progress in building local health department staffing capacity moving forward. The study found that from 2019 to 2021, while local health departments were in the midst of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, Full-Time Employees (FTEs) employed at local health departments remained relatively unchanged, but there was a large decrease in full-time staff, which was made up for with a large increase in contractual, temporary staff. The study also found that local health departments face barriers to recruiting and retaining qualified employees such as low salaries, lack of qualified candidates, and lengthy hiring processes. Results from this critical study were disseminated through a manuscript published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, and presented at multiple national conferences, including the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)360, National Rural Health Association Conference, and more.

Mid-way through 2022, the CDC announced a new funding opportunity for states called the Public Health Workforce, Data, and Infrastructure grant which aims to support recruitment and retention of public health workers at the state and local level to ensure preparedness for future public health threats. With this announcement, NYSACHO and the NYSDOH partnered to work on the structure of funding and to ensure that funding was contracted to localities in a meaningful way that provided flexibility in utilization. Moving forward NYSACHO is committed to continuing to work with our members and partners to address the recruitment and hiring barriers that local health departments face, as well as continuing to advocate for enhanced funding to support the local health department workforce and the critical work they do.

NYSACHO is Represented on the Following NYS Advisory Committees



Cannabis
Advisory
Board



Public Health &
Health Planning
Council



Early Intervention
Coordinating
Council



Opioid Settlement
Advisory Board

Snapshot of Key Successes*

**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.*

Training & Education

- Coordinated Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) Workgroup
- Convened Hepatitis C Workgroup
- Hosted bi-weekly State and Local Partner Meetings
- Participated in Monthly NYSDOH AIDS Institute LHD STI Calls
- Organized and hosted annual Public Health Leaders Summit, featuring a New Director and Commissioners Orientation
- Provided logistical support and hosted breakout sessions for the Public Health Partnership Conference
- Organized Early Intervention Statewide Meeting. Featuring presentations from:
 - Office for New Americans
 - ZERO to THREE
 - Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center
 - Project RISE from Nazareth College
- Provided logistical support and virtual attendee access for the Conference of Environmental Health Directors' Spring and Fall Technical Meetings
- Arranged 4-part Commissioner & Director Orientation Webinar series
- Hosted Environmental Health and General Public Health Webinars on topics including:
 - ATUPA Implementation
 - School Indoor Air Quality Updates (2 sessions)
 - NYSDOH Update on Contact Tracing, Resiliency Training
 - CHHA Database Training
 - Year 10 Performance Incentive Overview
 - OCFS HEARS System
 - RedCap Overview Training (2 sessions)
 - MRT 1115 Waiver

Harm Reduction

- Invited and hosted Allan Clear, Director of the NYSDOH AIDS Institute Office of Drug User Health, to deliver a presentation to membership on addressing the health needs of people who use drugs
- Maintained involvement with the NYS PARSE Coalition (Prevent Addiction and Support Recovery), whose objective is to develop a standard in NYS for a Recovery Ready Workplace
- Established connections in harm reduction with partners at the local, state, and national levels.
- Attended the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers of New York State's (ASAP) 23rd Annual Conference

Climate Change

- Facilitated a webinar covering the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's (OTDA) Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Cooling Assistance Program, including updates to eligibility criteria
- Organized and hosted a virtual Climate and Health Adaptation Workshop Series for LHDs and their community partners, with 226 total workshop attendees and 45 LHDs represented.
- Shared climate and health opportunities, resources, and information on a regular basis with NYSACHO's Climate & Health Liaisons email listserv

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- Hosted annual PHEP Contract Deliverable Overview meeting with NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)
- Attended quarterly Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) meetings
- Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) technical assistance

Immunization & Vaccine Equity

- Organized and hosted 6 Regional Adult Immunization Coalition Meetings. In partnership with the University at Albany School of Public Health, NYSACHO provided continuing education credits to approximately 512 adult immunization providers
- Organized and hosted the annual virtual Statewide Immunization Meeting with trainings on IQIP, NYSIIS, and Immunization Coalitions
- Updated the online School Nurse Toolkit for the 2022-23 school year
- Printed and disseminated 1,000+ copies of both the 2022 Adult Immunization Schedule and 2022 Pediatric Immunization Schedule to LHDs
- Advanced the goals and reach of the Campaign to ImmuNYze all New Yorkers, the Let's Get Immunized NY Campaign, and the New York State HPV Coalition
- Collaborated with the Medical Society of the State of New York, the medical specialties, county medical societies executives, and with representatives of NYSDOH to assist in increasing COVID-19 immunizations in NYS
- Developed and launched an influenza/COVID-19 vaccine digital campaign including Facebook and YouTube videos featuring the NYSACHO Executive Committee members as well as radio ads that aired on iHeart media radio channels throughout NYS
- Provided monthly immunization social media posts, with Spanish translations, highlighting public health observances to local health department immunization coordinators and health educators
- Along with the Let's Get Immunized New York Campaign, developed COVID-19 immunization resources.
- In partnership with the NYDSOH and The UAlbany School of Public, developed the Vaccinate NY toolkits on vaccine communication and promoting COVID-19 vaccine confidence
- Began work to develop COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Outreach Toolkits and held focus group with key counties to inform materials/priority populations.

- Published a manuscript describing LHD COVID-19 vaccination efforts successes and lessons learned (In-Progress Review Phase 2) in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and presented results at the HRSA Bureau of Health Workforce Virtual All Grantee & Stakeholder Meeting
- Hosted 4 Vaccine Equity Lunch & Learn Webinars with Subject Matter Experts. Topics included: Muslim Communities; Influenza and COVID-19 Immunization Health Inequities; BIPOC Communities; Social Media

Region 2 Public Health Training Center

- Conducted an LHD trainings needs assessment
- Conducted an Enumeration Study of the LHD workforce - results were published in International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and presented results at:
 - American Public Health Association 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo
 - National Network of Public Health Institutes
 - NYSAC 2022 Fall Seminar
 - NACCHO 360
 - Annual Health Plan Association Conference
 - National Rural Health Association Conference
- Assisted with the successful application for continued funding of the R2PHTC through HRSA

COMMUNICATIONS SNAPSHOT



600+ Social Media Posts
Across All Platforms



17 Press Releases



1000+ Technical Assistance Requests



119 Queries

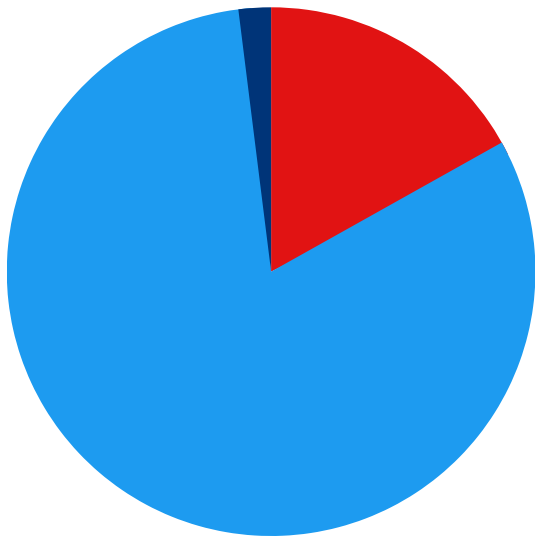


51 Newsletters

Financial Report

NYSACHO Revenue Sources

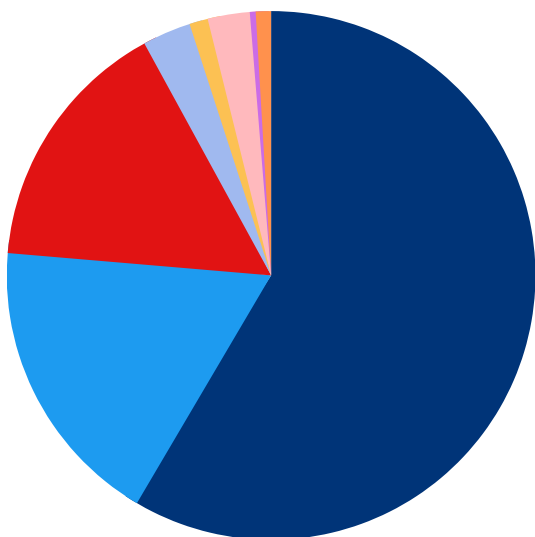
Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022



- Membership Dues \$228,565
- Contract and Grant Income \$1,098,96
- Other Income \$26,812
- Investment Return -\$35,413
- Total: \$1,318,930**

NYSACHO Expenditures

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2022



- Personnel: Salaries, Payroll, Taxes, Benefits \$772,474
- Meetings, Conferences, Trainings \$236,120
- Consultants: Lobbyist, Comms, Speakers, Etc. \$207,258
- Rent \$39,219
- Staff Travel to Programs and Conferences \$14,940
- Office Supplies and Related Expenses \$33,994
- Insurance \$4,692
- Depreciation/Misc. \$12,329
- Total: \$1,195,676**