

Talking Points

Maintenance of Effort for Local Health Departments

- 1) KSA 65-242 authorizes state funding (state formula dollars) for local health departments. Within this statute, there is a provision for maintenance of effort. “If local tax revenues allotted to a local health department for a fiscal year fall below the level of local tax revenues allotted to the local health department for the preceding fiscal year, the amount of state financial assistance under this act for which such local health department is eligible for the fiscal year **shall be reduced by a dollar amount equal to the dollar amount of reduction in local tax revenue for that fiscal year.**”
- 2) This is the only non-local revenue stream that is not categorical funding. It can be directed to meet the needs of the community.
- 3) The level of support has not been increased since enacted in 1982. There have been no increases to deal with the impact of inflation over that time period.
- 4) There is a potential for 42 health departments to lose between 1 – 100% of funding from state formula dollars, comparing 2010 local health department funding with 2009 local health department funding. Of those 42, 18 will lose 100%, 12 will lose between 10-99% and 12 will lose between 1-10%.
- 5) It is our recommendation that the amount be reduced by a percentage, as opposed to dollar for dollar. KSA 65-242 would be amended to read **“shall be reduced by a percentage equal to the percentage of reduction in local tax revenue for that fiscal year.”**
- 6) Senator Pete Brungardt, from Salina, has agreed to submit the proposal to the Health and Welfare Committee in the Senate and a representative from Wichita has been contacted to do the same in the House.