

North Carolina Public Health Leaders' Conference

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Secretary

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

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Recover Stronger

*These priorities and our work across the department are grounded in **whole-person health**, driven by **equity**, and responsive to the lessons learned responding to the greatest health crisis in more than a generation.*

Behavioral Health & Resilience



We need to offer services further upstream to build resiliency, invest in coordinated systems of care that **make mental health services easy to access** when and where they are needed and **reduce the stigma** around accessing these services.

Child & Family Wellbeing



We will work to ensure that North Carolina's children grow up safe, healthy and thriving in nurturing and resilient families and communities. **Investing in families and children's healthy development builds more resilient families, better educational outcomes and, in the long term, a stronger society.**

Strong & Inclusive Workforce



We will work to strengthen the **workforce that supports early learning, health and wellness by delivering services** to North Carolina. And we will take action to be an equitable workplace that lives its values and ensure that all people have the opportunity to be fully included members of their communities.

The health insurance coverage gap coupled with insufficient access to affordable care disproportionately impacts Historically Marginalized Populations who have also experienced worse outcomes than others under COVID-19. Medicaid expansion would help close the health insurance coverage gap.

Public Health Workforce Efforts Underway

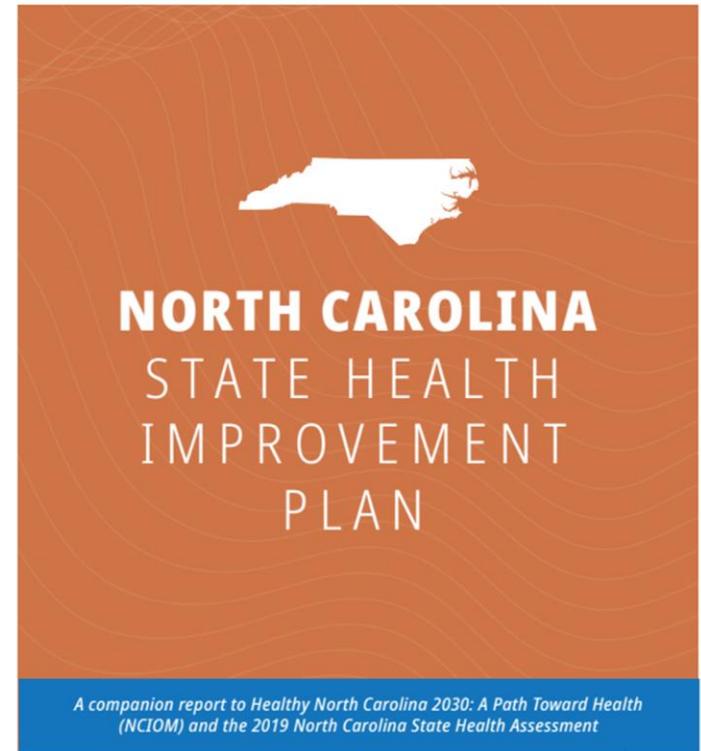
Blueprint on Building and Maintaining a Strong Public Health Workforce

- **Leveraging federal COVID-19 related funding** to ensure investments in: Regional LHD Workforce Initiative, Working Groups to address the Pipeline for local/state staff and Training for local/state staff, to improve retention and recruitment regional approach.
- **Investing in collaborations** like NCIOM Task Force on the Future of Local Public Health and national efforts through NC participation in initiatives with ASTHO, NACCHO, de Beaumont and the Bipartisan Policy Center to modernize and improve governmental public health.
- **Building a paid internship program** for historically black colleges, universities, and minority-serving institutions to attract people of color into public health.
- **Launching a new NC Credentialed Public Health Nurse program** to attract and retain a skilled, diverse public health nurse workforce at the local level.
- **Implementing a regional Public Health Workforce Initiative** across the 10 local health department regions.

Healthy North Carolina 2030/State Health Improvement Plans

Healthy North Carolina 2030: A Path Toward Health lays out ambitious goals for the 2020-2030 decade and is intended to mobilize and coordinate a broad array of private sector, public sector, and community organizations that can play a role in making North Carolinians healthier.

The North Carolina State Health Improvement Plan builds upon Health North Carolina 2030 and NC DHHS Strategic plan and priorities for COVID-19 recovery to help create a unified approach across multiple stakeholders to drive improvement in the indicators throughout the decade.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

Governor's Proposed Budget

Foundational investments in:

Medicaid expansion

- Provides access to affordable health insurance to more than **600,000** additional North Carolinians.
- Initial bonus of almost **\$1.5 billion** for North Carolina over two years.
- Injects over **\$5 billion** into the North Carolina economy.

DHHS & State Employees

- Provides **\$705 million** in Retention Bonuses
- Invests over **\$162 million** for the Labor Market Adjustment Fund
- Mission Critical DHHS positions

Data Driven Decision-making

- Bed Tracking System
- Enterprise data integration

Governor's Proposed Budget

Behavioral Health & Resilience

- Strengthening our behavioral health crisis system
- **\$2.5 million** to launch justice-involved pilot programs
- **\$12.3 million** for transitions to Community Living

Child & Family Well-being

- Implementing the Child Welfare and Family Well-Being Action Plan
- Invests **\$89.7 million** in early childhood education, including support to strengthen the pipeline of early childhood educators
- Reducing maternal mortality and morbidity

Strong & Inclusive Workforce

- **\$10 million** in recurring funds to support Local Health Departments
- Invests over **\$60 million** in pay increases for direct care workers
- **\$45 million** to address shortages in North Carolina's health care workforce