

CCDPH Quarterly Report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in their role as the Cook County Board of Health

Q3 2025 – Environmental Health Services

George Papadopoulos, MPH, LEHP

Kiran Joshi, MD, MPH



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

Overview:

Mission

Staffing

Budget Overview

Programs and Services

Summary

Appendix



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

We Are Your Local Health Department



Protect Health

Prevent Disease

Inform & Engage

Data for Action

✓ Outbreak Investigations

✓ Disease Control

✓ Inspections

✓ Emergency Preparedness
& Response

✓ Policy, Systems &
Environmental Change

✓ Screenings

✓ Vaccines

✓ Home Visits - Public
Health Nursing

✓ Public Information & Media

✓ Community Partnerships

✓ Health Education &
Outreach

✓ Guidance to Schools and
Healthcare Providers

✓ Chronic diseases, social
determinants, healthcare
access

✓ Communicable diseases

✓ Vaccination data

Advance Health Equity

Mission

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Services Unit strives to preserve and protect public health through primary prevention utilizing a combination of education, enforcement and assessment programs designed to identify, prevent and abate environmental conditions that adversely impact human health.



Staffing

Environmental Health Services

Total staff of 25, includes personnel with

- Expertise in food safety and food program implementation
- Licensure to inspect homes for lead hazards that harm children
- Knowledge of water quality and sewage issues to keep water systems and consumers safe
- Experience in ensuring safe swimming facilities in communities
- Skill in identifying and treating vector and pest problems
- 10 Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners, the professional license issued by the state, and required for supervision of local health department environmental programs
- Current vacancies: 4



Budget Overview

Environmental Health Services

2025 Funding (approximate)

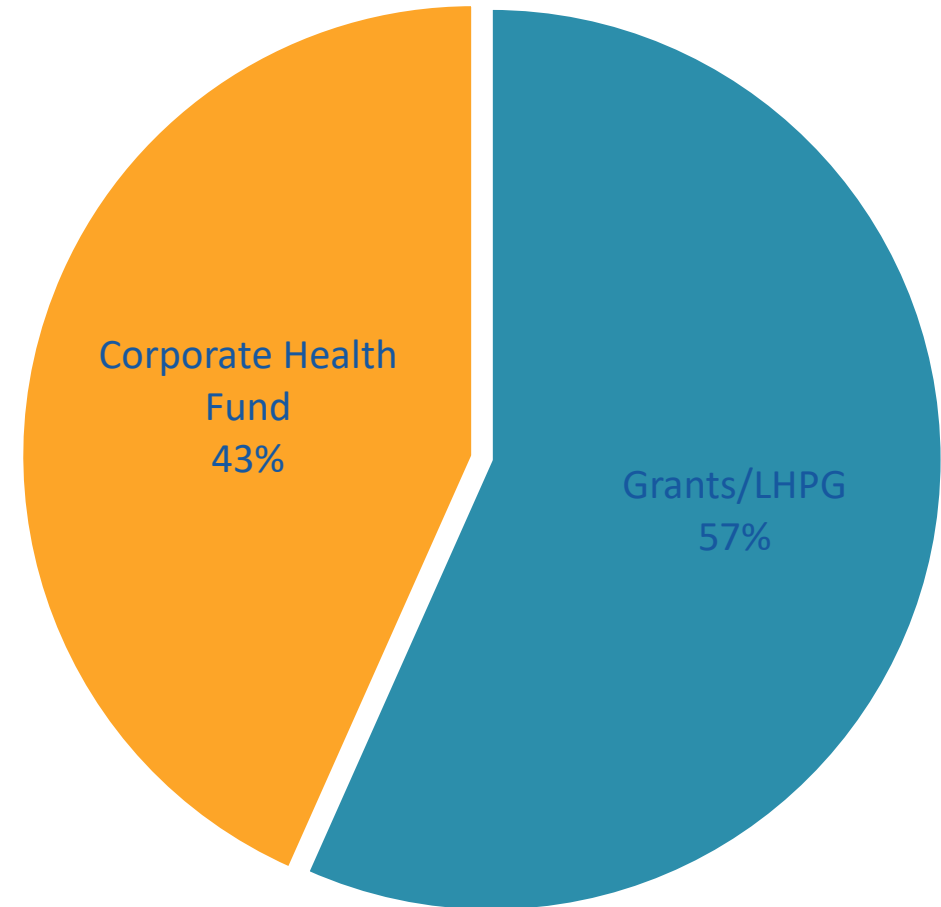
- Grants – IDPH Local Health Protection Grant and associated grants: \$2.2M
- Corporate/Health Fund: \$1.3M

Total: \$3.5M

2024 Revenue:

- License/Service Fees: \$600K

2025 Funding Sources





COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

Programs and Services

Retail Food Program



The retail food program keeps residents safe from food-related illnesses. 9.9 million people become ill from consuming contaminated food each year.

Services:

- Investigate foodborne illness outbreaks throughout SCC
- Inspect & license retail food facilities
 - Unincorporated Cook
 - 29 contract municipalities
- Conduct administrative and enforcement actions to correct violations
- Review & approve home-based food preparer applications to ensure safe practices
- Inspect temporary events and farmer's markets

2024 Results:

- Conducted **4,000+** food inspections
- Generated annual revenue of **\$350,000**



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

**BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES**

Tattoo, Body Art & Tanning Facilities

Services:

- Inspect facilities across suburban Cook County
- Educate operators

2024 Results:

- Performed 164 tattoo/body art facility inspections
- Conducted 78 tanning facility inspections



Without inspections residents are at risk for issues from minor skin infections to bloodborne diseases and other life-threatening complications.



Public Swimming Facilities



More children ages 1-4 die from drowning than any other cause of death. We ensure that pools and fitness centers operate their facilities according to state standards.

Services:

- Inspect public swimming facilities across suburban Cook County
- Investigate drownings; injuries; and waterborne illnesses
- Conduct plan reviews for newly installed pools

2024 Results:

- Conducted 900+ inspections
- Generated annual revenue of \$175,000



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

**BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES**

Retail Tobacco



Our inspections prevent sales of flavored liquid nicotine products and tobacco products to people under 21 years of age in unincorporated Cook County.

Services:

- Conduct inspections to enforce Cook County Youth Tobacco ordinance in unincorporated suburban Cook County
- Educate retailers
- Ensure proper signage and carding practices
- Investigate for compliance with sales prohibitions of flavored liquid nicotine

2024 Results:

- 50 Retail Tobacco Licenses issued
- 69 Inspections conducted
- 2 Administrative Hearings



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

**BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES**

Vector Control

Services:

(in areas not covered by Mosquito Abatement Districts)

- Monitor West Nile virus activity
- Test collected mosquitos
- Spray insecticide
- Treat catch basins & pools
- Assess tick activity
- Educate the public about bite prevention and surveillance

2024 Results:

- Nearly 2000 Gravid Trap checks and tests
- 1000 larvicidal treatments
- 2 adulticiding (spraying) treatments



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

**BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES**



In 2023, the U.S. recorded 2,632 West Nile virus cases, 2,000+ hospitalizations and 208 deaths.

Lead Poisoning Prevention



Lead exposure can cause:

- Lowered IQ and learning problems
- Trouble concentrating and paying attention
- Speech disorders
- Future health problems

Services:

- Conduct inspections to find lead hazards in homes of children and pregnant women in suburban Cook County
- Educate the public about lead
- Spread awareness of grants that assist with lead mitigation
- Advise homeowners on how to fix lead hazards
- Work with State's Attorney to require non-responsive property owners to fix lead hazards

Results:

- 214 home inspections performed in 2024
- 222 EBL referrals received from IDPH in 2024
- 172 EBL referrals from IDPH in 2025 YTD (*more than a 50% increase*)



Nuisance Program



Roaches and rodents are known carriers of disease and can spread illnesses, such as salmonella.

Services:

- Conduct health & safety investigations in unincorporated Cook County in response to complaints about nuisances (e.g. rodents, trash, mold).
- Conduct follow-up investigations
- Require non-compliant property owners to correct violations of health & safety hazards through administrative hearings

2024 Results:

- 505 complaints received and processed (investigated or referred)
- 81 inspections performed
- 5 Administrative Hearings



Mobile Home Parks Licensing



About 4,000 individual mobile home units are in unincorporated Cook County. We inspect all mobile home parks in unincorporated Cook so that community areas are safe & well-maintained.

Services:

- Conduct health and safety inspections at all parks in unincorporated Cook County
- Provide licenses to operate in unincorporated Cook County
- Conduct health and safety investigations in response to complaints received
- Take park owners to hearings to gain compliance with state standards

2024 Results:

- 12 Licenses issued
- 12 comprehensive inspections performed
- 1 Administrative Hearing
- Generated annual revenue of \$50,000



Water and Private Sewage Disposal



CCDPH works with areas not connected to public water & sewer systems to keep water supplies safe.

Services:

- Regulate private sewage disposal systems and water sources for any facility or residence not on a city water and sewer system
- Review and approve plans for new septic systems installed and new wells drilled in suburban Cook County
- Respond to complaints of malfunctioning systems
- Educate businesses and the public on Legionella risk and water quality concerns

2024 Results:

- 73 Private Sewage Disposal Systems plans reviewed
- 61 Lot surveys/Septic system inspections performed
- 75 Well applications issued
- 159 New/Abandoned Well inspections performed
- 383 Non-community water analysis opinions rendered





COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

Our Inspectors in Action

Our Inspectors in Action



Lead inspector



Lead poisoning assessment by a nurse



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

Our Inspectors in Action



Tanning facility inspector



Swimming pool inspector



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

In Summary

- EHS issues licenses, conducts inspections, and offers technical assistance to various types of facilities to ensure compliance with federal, state and county rules and regulations.
- EHS responds to complaints and potential threats to public health and safety across our programs.

Future directions:

- Planning for Lead Poisoning Program expansion in FY 2026, in anticipation of increase in caseload
- Preparing cost estimates for Food Program expansion in FY 2027, following discussions with municipal partners





COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

Appendix

Appendix (Jurisdiction)

Environmental Health Services Programs

Food Protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Supplemental Nutrition Programs for Children (CEDA, School Districts, Head Start, etc.)• Summer Food Inspection Program (3)• Cottage Food Vendors/Farmers' Markets/Temporary Food Events	Water & Sewage: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Community Public Water Supplies (3)• Private and Semi-Private Potable Water Supplies (1)• Private Sewage Disposal (1)• Septage Haulers (1, 2)• Water Well/Private Sewage Disposal System Evaluations	Vectors & Virus Prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vector Control (2)• Vector Surveillance (3)• West Nile Virus/Zika Virus/Mosquito Vector Prevention (3)	Body Art Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tanning Facilities (3)• Tattoo/Body Art Facilities (3)
Air Quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indoor Air Quality (2)• Clean Indoor Air (2)	Swimming: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Swimming Facilities (2, 3)• Residential Swimming Pools and Spas Plan Review (2)	Retail Food Protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporated (4)• Unincorporated (1, 2)	Tobacco: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retail Tobacco Licensure (2)• Smoke-Free Illinois (3)
Lead: <p>Education, Inspection Assessment and Remediation (3)</p>	Other Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Business License (2)• Reviews for Zoning Board of Appeals and Board of Commissioners (2)	Other Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public and Private Nuisances (1, 2)• Mobile Home Parks (2)	

- (1) Program or subprogram is required by IDPH to maintain Local Health Protection Grant and certification as a recognized Local Health Department
- (2) Program is required by Cook County Ordinance
- (3) Program is an Intergovernmental Agreement with ID
- (4) Program is an Intergovernmental Agreement with each of the 29 municipalities



Thank You



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES