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

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Overview:

- Mission
- Staffing
- Budget Overview
- Programs and Services
- Summary
- Appendix

We Are Your Local Health Department

Protect Health

- ✓ Outbreak Investigations
- ✓ Disease Control
- ✓ Inspections
- ✓ Emergency Preparedness & Response

Prevent Disease

- ✓ Policy, Systems & Environmental Change
- ✓ Screenings
- ✓ Vaccines
- ✓ Home Visits - Public Health Nursing

Inform & Engage

- ✓ Public Information & Media
- ✓ Community Partnerships
- ✓ Health Education & Outreach
- ✓ Guidance to Schools and Healthcare Providers

Data for Action

- ✓ 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)

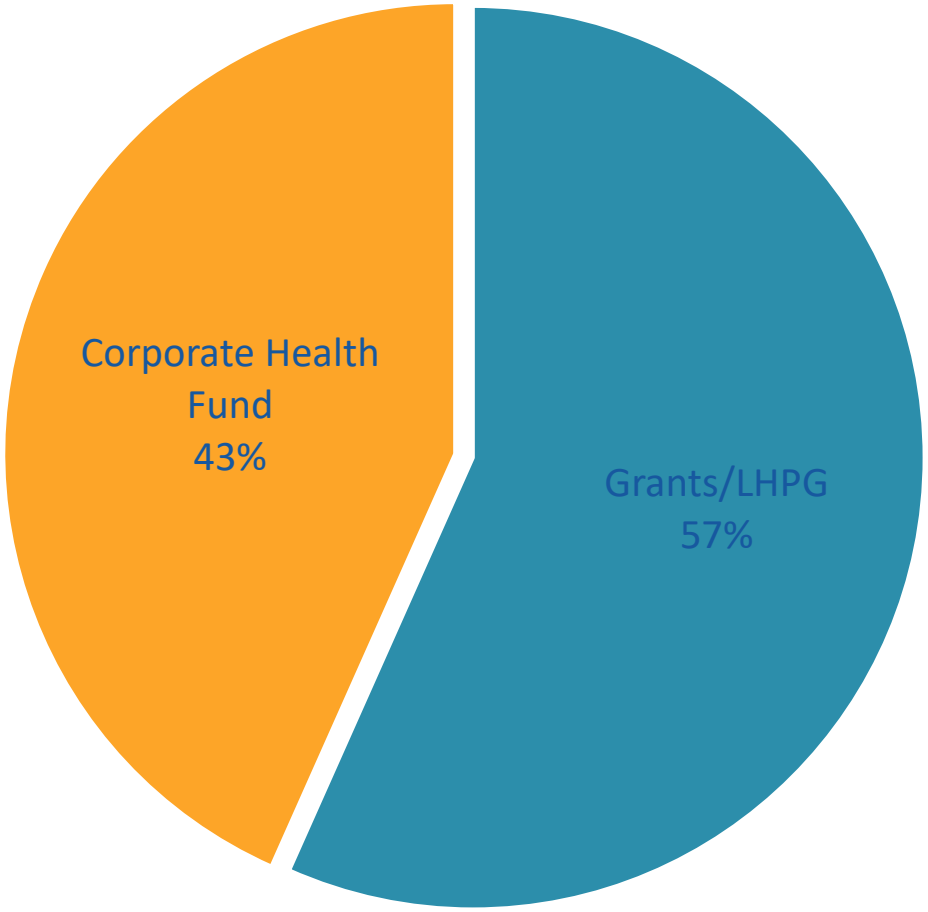
- Grants – IDPH Local Health Protection Grant and associated grants: $2.2M
- Corporate/Health Fund: $1.3M

Total: $3.5M

2024 Revenue:

- License/Service Fees: $600K

2025 Funding Sources



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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**

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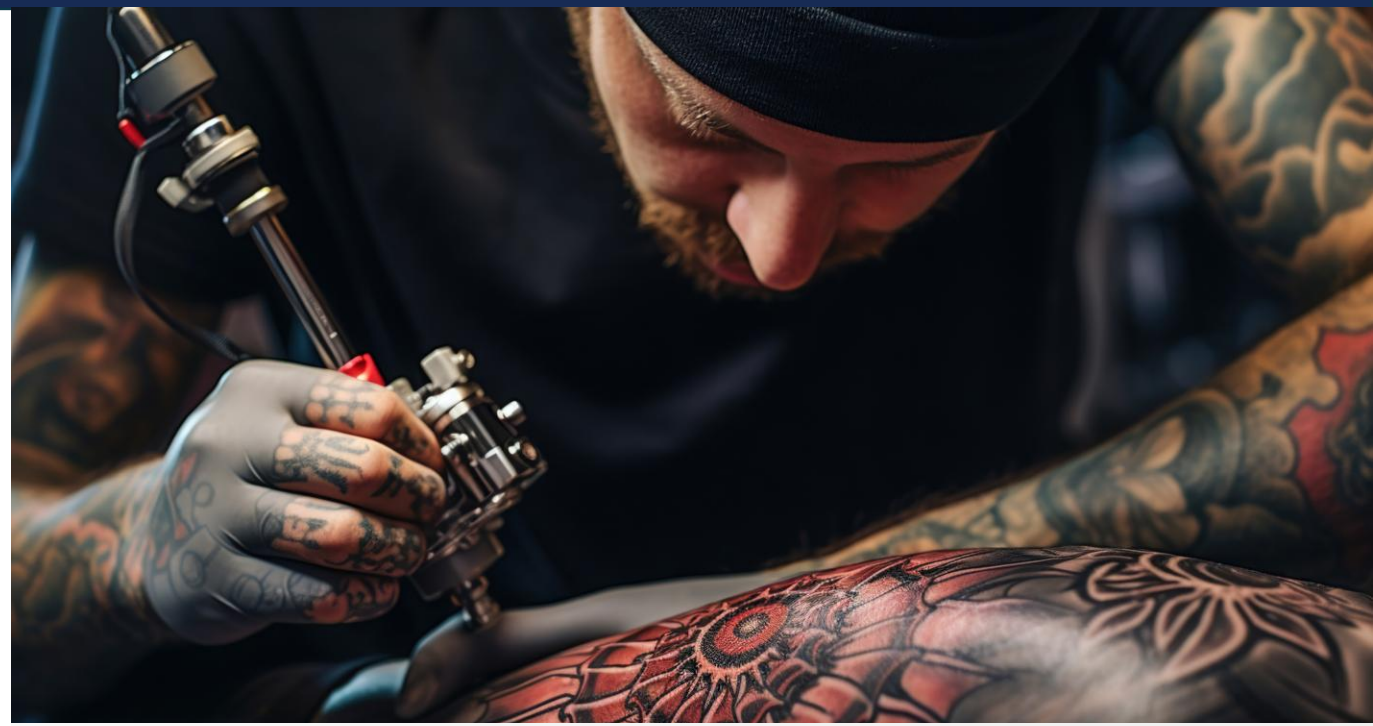
Tattoo, Body Art & Tanning Facilities

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

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

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Vector Control

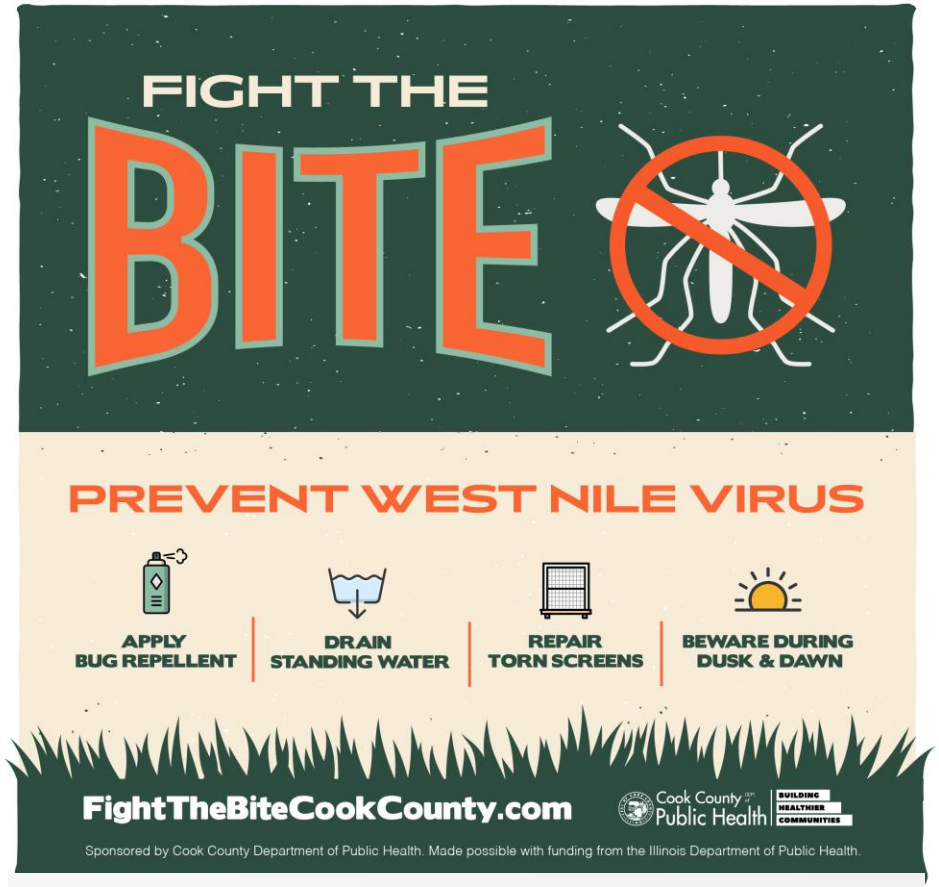
Services:

(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



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

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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)*

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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

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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

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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

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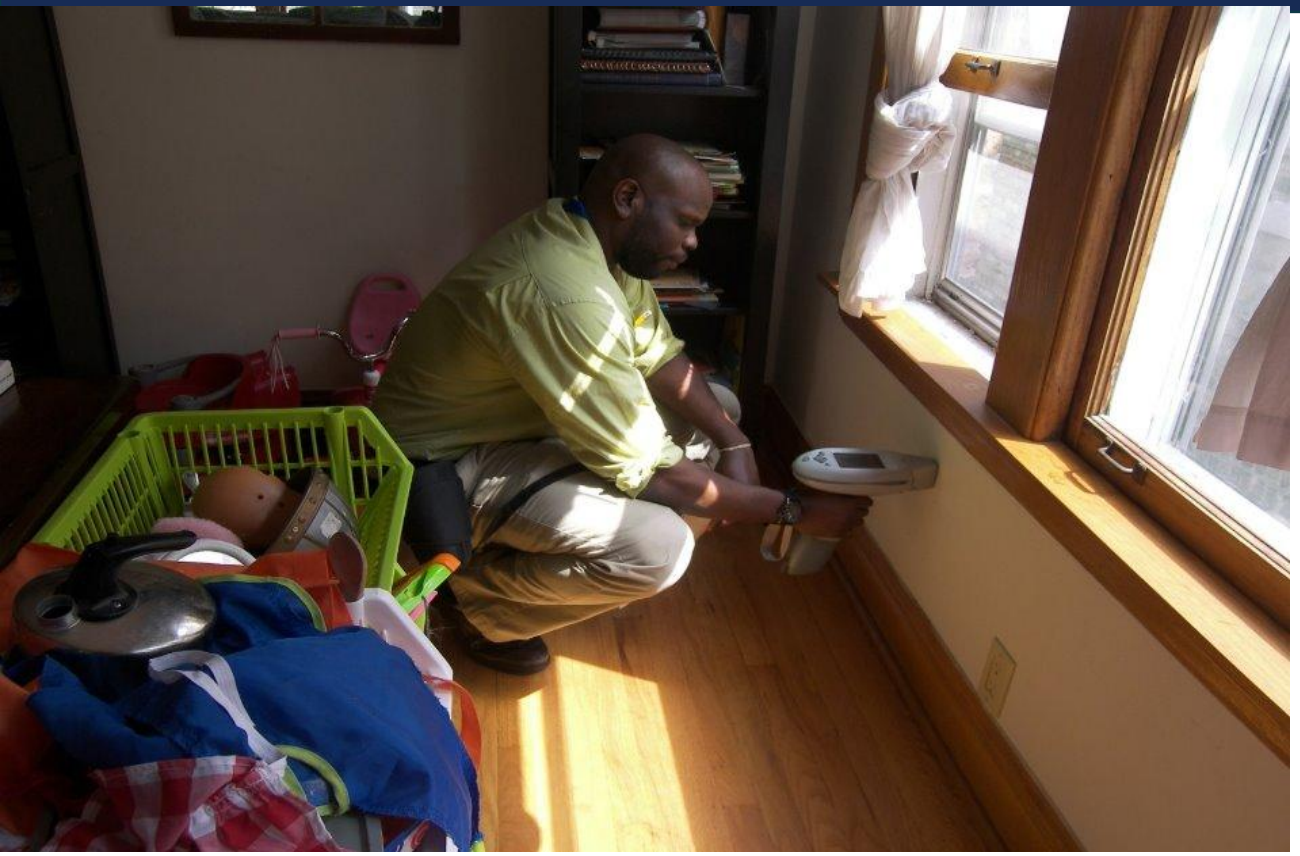
Our Inspectors in Action

Our Inspectors in Action



Lead inspector

Lead poisoning assessment by a nurse

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Our Inspectors in Action

Tanning facility inspector

Swimming pool inspector

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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

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Appendix

Appendix (Jurisdiction)

Environmental Health Services Programs

Food Protection:

- 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:

- 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:

- Vector Control (2)
- Vector Surveillance (3)
- West Nile Virus/Zika Virus/Mosquito Vector Prevention (3)

Body Art Facilities:

- Tanning Facilities (3)
- Tattoo/Body Art Facilities (3)

Air Quality:

- Indoor Air Quality (2)
- Clean Indoor Air (2)

Swimming:

- Public Swimming Facilities (2, 3)
- Residential Swimming Pools and Spas Plan Review (2)

Retail Food Protection:

- Incorporated (4)
- Unincorporated (1, 2)

Tobacco:

- Retail Tobacco Licensure (2)
- Smoke-Free Illinois (3)

Lead:

Education, Inspection Assessment and Remediation (3)

Other Programs:

- General Business License (2)
- Reviews for Zoning Board of Appeals and
- Board of Commissioners (2)

Other Programs:

- Public and Private Nuisances (1, 2)
- Mobile Home Parks (2)

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(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

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