



# BACK TO BASICS

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2024



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge our dedicated staff for the work they do on behalf of the residents of Cuyahoga County. Their wide range of experience and knowledge, their everyday use of data and best practices, and their dedication to improving health outcomes make us the trusted source for public health information. This document serves to highlight select programs and services delivered by our staff, using the Ten Essential Public Health Services as the platform.



**Infant Vitality Advocacy Day**



**CCBH Worksite Wellness Committee**

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# AGENCY OVERVIEW

CCBH serves 875,000 residents across 58 communities. Our partners at Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) attend to the city of Cleveland.

We are funded in large part through contracts paid on a per-capita basis by the 37 cities within the county. Additional monies are earned using fee-for-service programs, license and permit fees, and local, state and federal grants.

Our governing body is a five-member Board of Health that oversees our activities along with our general counsel, medical director and health commissioner. Board members are appointed by our District Advisory Council (DAC) on a five-year rotation. The DAC consists of mayors, township trustees or their appointees from the 21 villages and townships in our county. Their experience helps to inform the decisions we make and allows us to represent the communities well, regardless of their size.

David Smith has served as the Mayor of the Village of North Randall for 21 years, and also as the chair of our District Advisory Council for the past 13 years. His commitment to understanding our programs and services and acting in accordance with established public health practices has been unyielding. Mayor Smith continues to be a faithful public partner and we are most grateful for his efforts.





# MESSAGE FROM THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

## Getting Back to Basics

Welcome to the Cuyahoga County Board of Health's (CCBH) annual report. In reviewing our activities from 2024, I am reminded of the basic core functions of public health - **Assessment, Policy Development, and Assurance** - and how well they align with our programs, services, and strategic direction.

The Ten Essential Public Health Services are guided by the key values of equity, freedom, and the pursuit of truth. Relative to our daily work, that means:

- Dedicating resources to the professional development of our staff
- Developing strategies and plans rooted in proven, evidence-based practices
- Maintaining our commitment to the principles of equity
- Serving as part of a safety net for those who are without health insurance
- Using data to inform and drive our decision-making

This report is a snapshot of what our agency does to fulfill our **Mission**, which is to work in partnership with the community to protect and improve the health and well-being of everyone in Cuyahoga County.

We look forward to serving you and all of our 58 communities.



*Roderick L. Harris*

Roderick Harris, DrPH

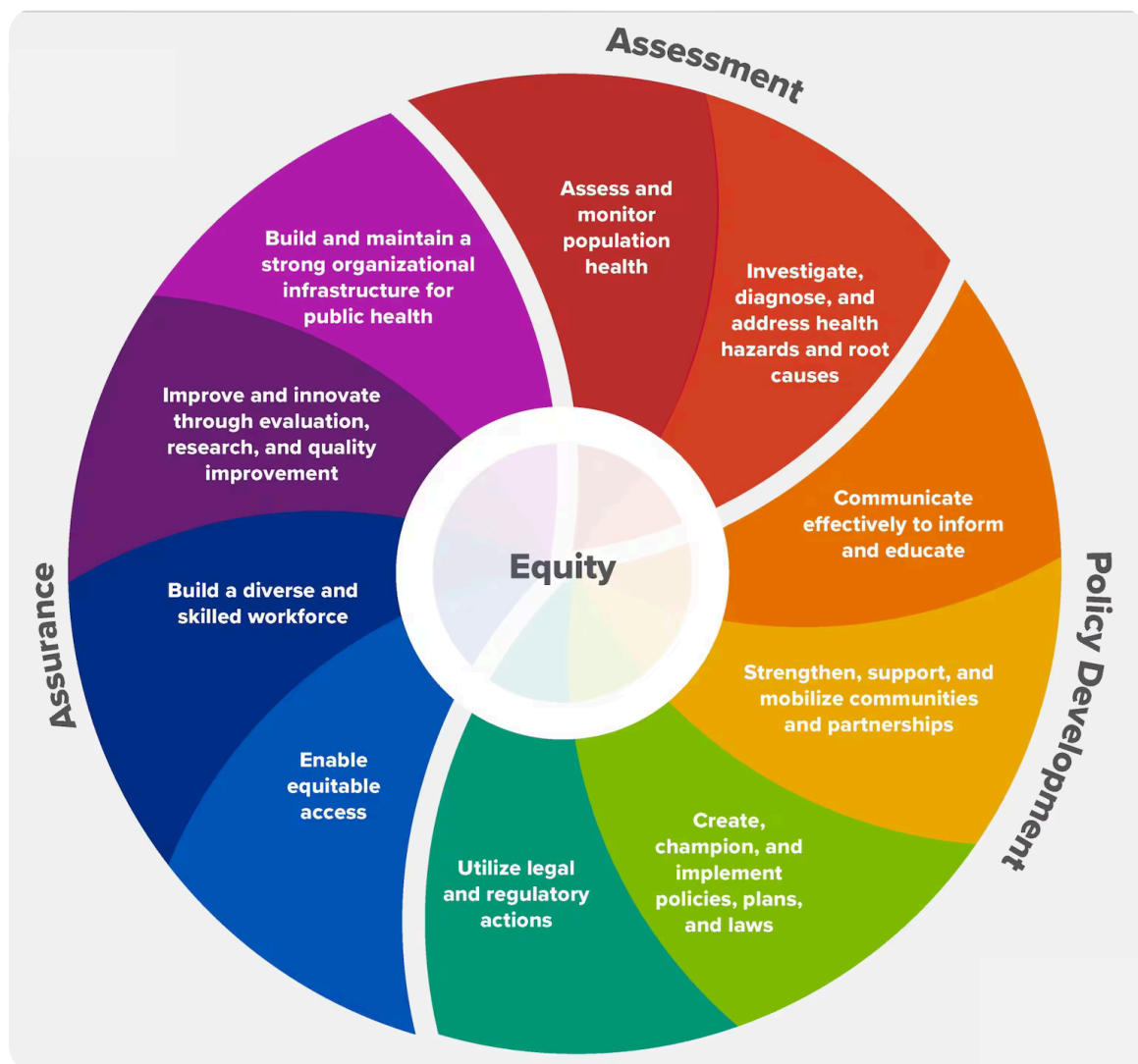




# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (EPHS)

The Ten Essential Public Health Services are the foundation for an equity-based, all-encompassing approach to improving health outcomes. They are intended to create conditions that allow people to realize improved health by reducing and eliminating barriers to good health.

In 2023, our Board, staff members and many community partners developed our current agencywide strategic plan. In keeping with the Ten Essential Public Health Services, our plan requires us to make data-informed decisions and rely on trusted scientific evidence while demonstrating a renewed commitment to health equity.

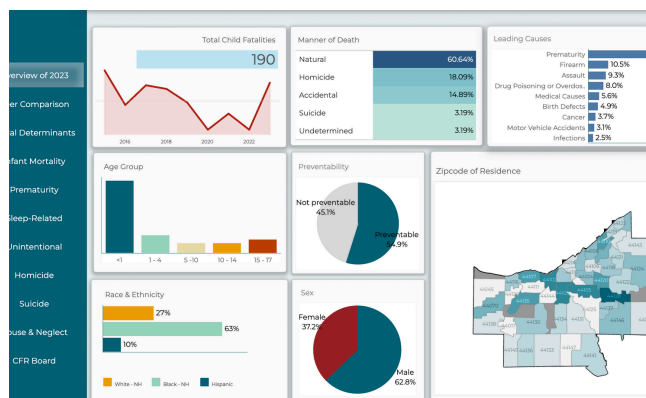




# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

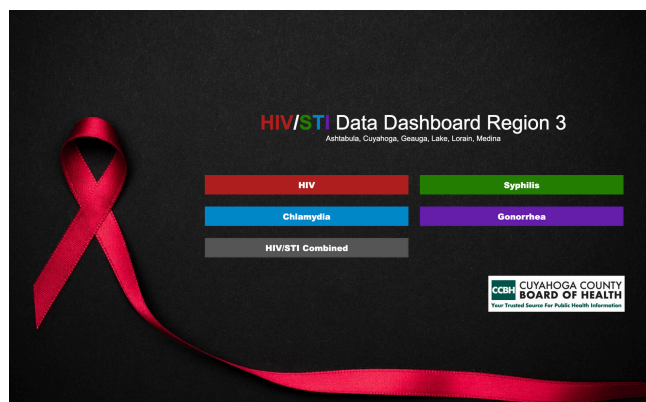
## 1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets

These interactive tools present the information that tells the story of each topic, using defined categories and filters. This information is invaluable, serving both as a historical reference and a guide to managing data in real time.

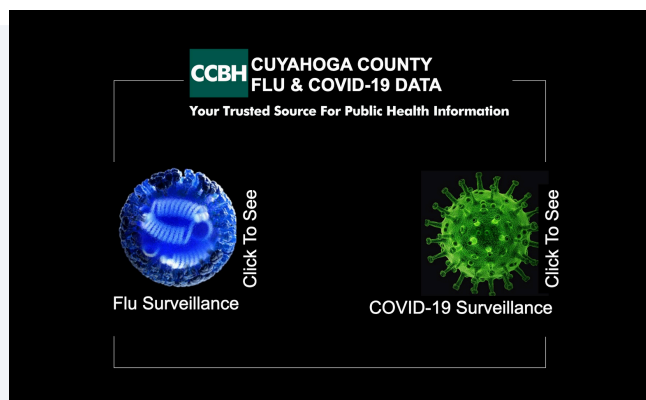


These new dashboards are available on our website:

[Child Fatality Review](#)



[HIV/STI](#)



[COVID-19/Flu/RSV](#)



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *2. Investigate, diagnose and address health problems and hazards affecting the population*

### **Watershed Protection Unit (WPU)**

In 2024, the WPU improved local water quality by overseeing the installation of 107 household sewage treatment systems (HSTS), as well as the conversion of 201 existing systems to sanitary sewers. In addition, 1,462 National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems were sampled to ensure compliance with discharge requirements.

The WPU works to prevent illicit discharges into our waterways to keep them healthy and to protect wildlife. Stream cleanups eliminate bulk items like aluminum, plastic, rubber and other waste that can negatively impact the water quality.

Our summer workers conducted local stream clean-ups, collecting a total of 440 pounds of trash across 12 communities.

- Beachwood
- Bedford
- Broadview Heights
- Brook Park
- Cleveland Heights
- Cuyahoga Heights
- Euclid (Sims Beach)
- Lakewood
- Middleburg Heights
- Orange Village
- South Euclid
- Strongsville



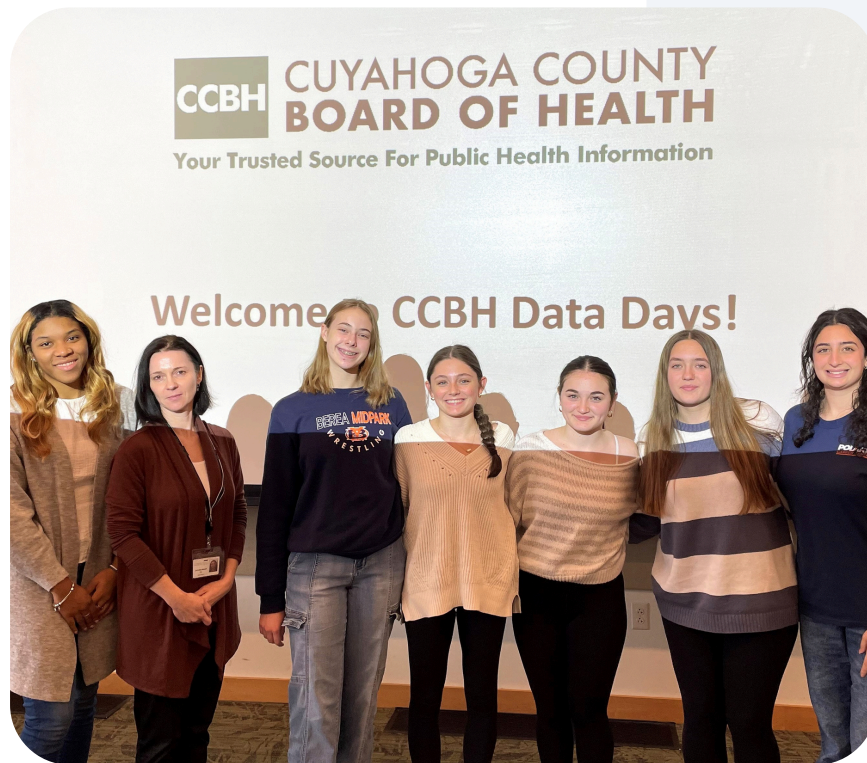


# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it*

## Data Days

Continuing with our emphasis on data use and representation, we introduced Data Days to the community, local schools and universities. Available both in-person and online, Data Days allows us to highlight the information we collect and use in our everyday programs. Attendees learn about the story behind the numbers and are able to apply it to their communities and institutions. Audiences have included hospital systems, non-profit organizations, the state health department and local universities.



**Area students attended Data Days**

## Food Safety Training

811 food service workers attended instructional sessions at our offices, taking either the three-hour, state-approved Person in Charge class or the 18-hour nationally-approved ServSafe® manager course.

# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *4. Strengthen, support and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health*

### Child Fatality Review

The Cuyahoga County [Child Fatality Review](#) examines the circumstances surrounding the death of children. Recommendations are made for actions to reduce preventable deaths in children under 18 years-old. We partner with the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner and Invest in Children to produce the [Child Fatality Report](#).

### Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)

We work with local partners to implement proven public health strategies that improve health outcomes and reduce health disparities among populations with the highest risk for chronic disease. Collaboration continued this year with the Case Western Reserve University Swetland Center for Environmental Health to develop produce prescription programs for Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino/a/e residents in prioritized areas of the county. Goals include increasing the number of clinical sites prescribing produce and ensuring that local produce prescription programs are culturally tailored for these groups.





# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans and laws that impact health*

### **Environmental Justice**

With funding support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a local environmental justice community advisory board (EJCAB) was formed in 2024. Individuals representing East Cleveland, Euclid and Maple Heights began meeting in June. The group engaged in nine community conversations with fellow neighborhood residents to assess environmental concerns.

Additionally, the EJCAB members completed a two-part health impact assessment (HIA) training. This equipped them with the knowledge and skills to inform decision makers about the potential health impacts of policies, programs and projects intended to improve population health and reduce health inequities.

The EJCAB is coordinated by CCBH and the Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition. The HIA trainings were conducted by The Ohio State University Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Evaluation Studies.



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## Infant Vitality Advocacy Day

A group of statewide partners, including [Baby 1st Network](#), [Celebrate One](#), [Cradle Cincinnati](#), [First Year Cleveland](#) and CCBH content experts, gathered at the Ohio State House on September 17 in recognition of Infant Vitality Advocacy Day. Focusing on maternal health, birth outcomes and infant health outcomes, they provided legislators and lawmakers with education and information about the health equity impacts of system and policy initiatives and opportunities.

According to the [2023 Cuyahoga County Child Fatality Report](#), the local infant mortality rate was at its second-highest point over the past ten years. Disparities persist as the rate for Black babies is 3X higher when compared to White babies.

## Infant mortality rate

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births





# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health*

Our Board of Health and the Watershed Protection Unit management team can approve variances for Household Sewage Treatment Systems that could otherwise not be approved. In some cases, new system installation requirements cannot be met because of physical limitations on the property. These impairments would cause undue financial burden for the homeowners. Being practical, in regard to the homeowner and the landscape, and protective of the watershed environment, solutions are reached which allow for modification of the system without jeopardizing its integrity. In 2024, our Board approved seven of these variances.



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

*7. Contribute to an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy*

## Complex Medical Help Program (CMH)

CMH pays for medical costs associated with caring for children with special needs. It may cover costs not paid by Medicaid or private health insurance. It can lessen out-of-pocket costs. Services are provided for children living in all cities in Cuyahoga County.

The **diagnostic program** helps to pay for diagnosis of medical conditions. Anyone can qualify for help. The **treatment program** helps pay for the treatment of medical conditions. Services are available to those who qualify both medically and financially.

## HIGHLIGHTS



8%

increase in program  
enrollment over 2023



27%

increase in program  
participant engagement  
over 2023



CCBH



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## Lead Poisoning Prevention

In April 2024, the Ohio Department of Development awarded \$8,057,000 to Cuyahoga County to conduct lead abatement services in residential properties, congregate care settings and childcare facilities built before 1978. The county then subcontracted \$4,089,092 to CCBH to conduct activities in high-risk zip codes and low-to-moderate income populations.

The primary beneficiaries of the work are children less than six years of age who are living in these homes. Secondary benefits will be realized through improved housing quality and neighborhood stabilization.



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce*

Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) team continues to deliver education, build relationships and contribute to the development of an equity-based culture, both in-house and with its broad range of community-based partners, organizations and institutions.

In working with our staff, the EDI team presented 11 Brown Bag Lunch learning sessions addressing various topics, including social determinants of health, minority men's health, climate equity and gatekeeping.

The team also conducted a training program focusing on data equity, which means using an established set of principles and practices to ensure that data are used in a fair and responsible manner, not in ways that create bias and inequity.



CCBH staff at the 2024 Cleveland Pride March

### Listen to the June episode of Public Health Matters

*Public Health Matters is presented by CCBH in partnership with Urban One Cleveland.*





# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## *9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement*

### **Reaccreditation**

Our application for reaccreditation was submitted in December to the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Having initially been accredited in 2019, it was necessary for the agency to take the next step and assure alignment with current practices and standards.

The PHAB platform is designed to assist local health departments (LHD) improve the accountability, performance and quality of the programs and services they provide. The overall goal is to develop and prepare public health systems to support people living healthier lives.

### **Cybersecurity assessment**

CCBH is a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). As part of the agency's ongoing commitment to data security, we undertook a comprehensive HIPAA security audit in 2024 to assess any vulnerabilities to the agency's critical systems. The audit found no significant security deficiencies in the existing systems, but the agency will be implementing additional safeguards and practices recommended by our consultant. This will help ensure that we are protected against cyberattacks and are able to protect our most important data.



# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

## ***10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health***

In accordance with the PHAB standards for reaccreditation, in 2024, we have developed a portfolio of internal plans which guide our daily outreach and operations. Here are four examples of what is included:

### **Communications Plan**

This document defines how to develop and administer communication strategies and protocols, including emergency notification, media interaction, message development, risk communication, and timely and accurate release of reliable information.

### **Performance Management and Quality Improvement Plan**

Data are used as a tool to evaluate and improve performance. Efforts also include the strategic application of standards, measures, progress reports, and ongoing quality improvement efforts to achieve the desired results.

### **Strategic Plan**

A common understanding of the mission, vision, goals and objectives. The plan provides a template for all employees and stakeholders to make decisions that move the organization forward.

### **Workforce Development Plan**

This plan provides for the proper assessment of workforce capacity and includes strategies for improvement. Among the objectives are emphasizing employee recruitment and retention, defining efforts to build a diverse and skilled workforce, and constructing a qualified public health workforce equipped with equity-focused competencies and capabilities.





# THE TEN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Building on our agencywide commitment to continuous quality improvement, CCBH staff are encouraged to invest in opportunities for both career and personal development. Here are some of the ways in which we work together:

## Professional development opportunities

Our staff attended 30+ learning opportunities, including:

- Climate and Health Education Summit
- HIV Prevention Summit
- Ohio Equity Initiative
- Overdose Fatality Review National Forum
- Personal Responsibility and Education Program
- Preparedness Summit

## Tuition assistance

Our Board has a long-standing history of supporting staff as they pursue higher education and that continued in 2024. Across the agency, 11 individuals participated in the CCBH program and 14 others took part in the Association of Health Commissioners tuition program.

## Management and leadership trainings

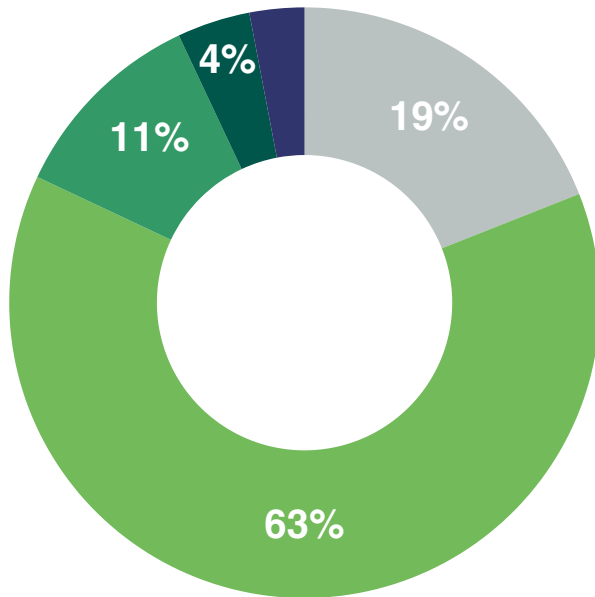
### Strategic Doing<sup>™</sup>

Given that our agency is engaged as a partner/member of numerous programs, committees, organizations and institutions, it is important for our staff to make positive contributions and serve as productive members of their respective workgroups. This year, Dr. Harris brought forward the established concept of Strategic Doing<sup>™</sup>, “a peer-reviewed, scientifically-grounded practice that teaches the discipline of strategy and collaboration,” to further the skills of our leadership team.

Using these methods as a platform for discussion, participants can build a network of purposeful relationships that drive everyone involved to effectively support a defined idea or principle. This approach helps to create improved focus, efficiency and better overall outcomes.

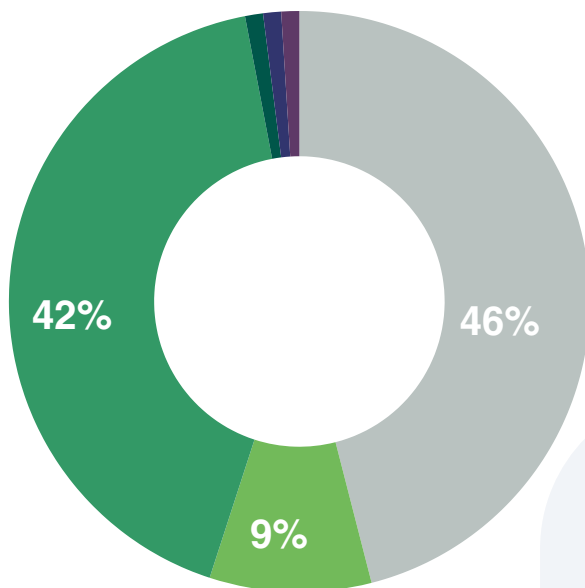


# FINANCIALS



## REVENUE

City, Village, & Township	\$6,468,405
Federal, State, & Local Funds	\$21,439,812
Licenses, Permits, & Fees	\$3,749,701
Charges for Services	\$1,070,863
Other Receipts	\$1,064,953
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$33,793,734</b>



## EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	\$15,811,083
Services & Charges	\$3,134,972
Grants & Subcontracts for Services	\$14,441,597
Supplies & Materials	\$509,014
Debt Services	\$470,760
Capital Outlays	\$282,950
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$34,650,376</b>

The total amount of expenditures is greater than revenue due to the time lapse between when expenses occur and when revenue is received.

# MORE ABOUT CCBH



**BOARD MEMBERS**



**CLINIC SERVICES**



**LEADERSHIP TEAM**



**PHONE**

216.201.2000



**WEBSITE**

[www.ccbh.net](http://www.ccbh.net)





# COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

Bay Village	Gates Mills	Olmsted Township
Beachwood	Glenwillow	Orange Village
Bedford	Highland Heights	Parma
Bedford Heights	Highland Hills	Parma Heights
Bentleyville	Hunting Valley	Pepper Pike
Berea	Independence	Richmond Heights
Bratenahl	Lakewood	Rocky River
Brecksville	Linndale	Seven Hills
Broadview Heights	Lyndhurst	Shaker Heights
Brooklyn	Mayfield Heights	Solon
Brooklyn Heights	Mayfield Village	South Euclid
Brook Park	Middleburg Heights	Strongsville
Chagrin Falls Township	Moreland Hills	University Heights
Chagrin Falls Village	Newburgh Heights	Valley View
Cleveland Heights	North Olmsted	Walton Hills
Cuyahoga Heights	North Randall	Warrensville Heights
East Cleveland	North Royalton	Westlake
Euclid	Oakwood Village	Woodmere
Fairview Park	Olmsted Falls	
Garfield Heights		

