

Job Creation in the Health and Wellness Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1)

- According to a NACCHO survey of local health departments in 2008, more than half had either laid off employees or lost them through attrition and have been unable to replace them due to budget limitations. About one-third predict layoffs in 2009. NACCHO estimates a total loss of approximately 7,000 local public health workers nationwide and expects this number to increase in 2009.¹
- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) reports that among states that have had budget cuts, 48% lost staff due to attrition and 23% due to layoffs. Two states have already lost 15% of their workforce through attrition. One of these states expects to lose another 15% in the next fiscal year. The vacancy rates at state health departments range from 2% to 17%, with 44% of states having a vacancy rate of 10% or higher. At least 29% of states expect to lose staff through layoffs or attrition in FY09.²
- State health and local health departments lost over 11,000 jobs last year, and are projecting to lose an equivalent amount over the next year due to the economy and state budgets. The Wellness Funding would help restore those lost jobs and prevent a projected additional 10,000 job vacancies from occurring next year in health departments. Beyond the health departments, many community based organizations would also potentially be funded to create new jobs to provide prevention services and programs to the public.
- During an economic downturn, when unemployment rates soar, unemployed workers and their families turn to state and local health departments and community-based organizations for basic health services, like immunizations and preventive services that are provided free of charge to those who cannot afford them
- The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) conducted a survey of state and local member laboratories. As a result of the survey, APHL estimates government laboratories nationwide have seen their budgets cut by approximately \$39 million or \$405,000 on average. Laboratories nationwide either laid-off or left unfilled an estimated 429 full-time employees/positions and expect to see another 246 layoffs/unfilled positions in 2009.³

The bioscience sector is a source of high-wage jobs. The average bioscience job paid \$71,000 in 2006, \$29,000 more than the average private sector job. Each bioscience job generates an additional 5.8 jobs in the national economy.⁴

¹ NACCHO, *NACCHO Survey of Local Health Departments' Budget Cuts and Workforce Reductions*. January 2009. Available from: http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/upload/report_lhdbudgets.pdf

² ASTHO, *Impact of Budget Cuts on State Public Health: The Public's Health Is Threatened as State Public Health Agencies Face Multiple Budget Cuts*, December 2008. Available from: <http://www.astho.org/pubs/StateBudgetCutsSummary.pdf?PHPSESSID=a4490b630f003bc6eddbbc0322b777167>

³ APHL, *Government Health Laboratories Slammed by Recession*. Available from: <http://www.aphl.org/policy/Pages/recession.aspx>.

⁴ Center for American Progress, <http://www.scienceprogress.org/2009/01/nih-funding-to-states/>.