

Governance and Organizational Structures in Minnesota’s Community Health Boards

Governance Structures

Minnesota Statutes identify two governing structure options for counties and cities to legally organize themselves to do the work of public health: community health boards (under Minn. Stat. § 145A) or human services boards (under Minn. Stat. § 402). Multi-county community health boards (or CHBs) are formed through joint powers agreements, which allow them to work across geo-political boundaries. Currently, there are 51 CHBs in Minnesota. MDH also partners with Minnesota’s eleven American Indian tribes to provide public health services.

Single-County, City, or County/City CHBs (22 CHBs)

Minimum population requirement of 30,000. County board assumes the duties of the CHB OR appoints a CHB. Organized under Minn. Stat. § 145A.

- Anoka
- Beltrami
- Benton
- City of Bloomington
- Carver
- Chisago
- City of Edina
- Freeborn
- Goodhue
- Hennepin
- Isanti
- Kanabec
- Mille Lacs
- City of Minneapolis
- Mower
- Olmsted
- Pine
- Rice
- City of Richfield
- Sherburne
- St. Paul-Ramsey
- Washington
- Winona

Multi-County Community Health Boards (17 CHBs)

Joint powers agreement. Minimum population requirement of 30,000. County board appoints representatives to the CHB. Organized under Minn. Stat. § 145A.

- Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching
- Brown-Nicollet
- Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis
- Countryside (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine*)
- Des Moines Valley (*Cottonwood, Jackson*)
- Dodge-Steele
- Fillmore-Houston
- Horizon (*Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Pope, Douglas*)
- Kandiyohi-Renville
- Morrison-Todd-Wadena
- Le Sueur-Waseca
- Meeker-McLeod-Sibley
- North Country (*Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods*)
- Partnership4Health (*Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, Wilkin*)
- Polk-Norman-Mahnomen
- Quin County (*Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau*)
- Southwest Health and Human Services (*Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock*)

Single-County Human Services Boards (11 HSBs)

Organized under Minn. Stat. § 402. Assumes all duties of CHB.

- Blue Earth
- Cass
- Crow Wing
- Dakota
- Nobles
- Scott
- Stearns
- Wabasha
- Watonwan
- Wright

Multi-County Human Services Boards (1 HSB)

Organized under Minn. Stat. § 402. Assumes all duties of CHB.

- Faribault-Martin

Organizational Structures

Organizational structure is a term used to describe the way in which a local health department is organized within a city or county. Unlike governing structures, which are dictated by statute, organizational structures are locally determined. Public health can be a stand-alone department or organized with other departments or divisions, such as human services. Public health can also be a department or division within a hospital or health care organization.

Standalone Public Health Departments (34 counties, 4 cities, 28 LHDs)

- City of Bloomington
- Benton
- Brown
- Clay
- Clearwater
- Countryside (*Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine*)
- Dodge
- City of Edina
- Fillmore
- Freeborn
- Hennepin
- Horizon (*Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Pope, Douglas*)
- Kanabec
- Le Sueur
- Norman-Mahnomen
- Meeker
- City of Minneapolis
- Otter Tail
- Pennington and Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care
- Polk
- Renville
- Rice
- City of Richfield
- Steele
- St. Paul-Ramsey
- Wadena
- Waseca
- Washington

Health and Human Services Agencies (48 counties, 41 LHDs)

- Aitkin
- Anoka
- Becker
- Beltrami
- Blue Earth
- Carlton
- Carver
- Cass
- Chisago
- Cook
- Crow Wing
- Dakota
- Des Moines Valley (*Cottonwood, Jackson*)
- Faribault-Martin
- Goodhue
- Houston
- Isanti
- Itasca
- Kandiyohi
- Koochiching
- Lake
- McLeod
- Mille Lacs
- Morrison
- Mower
- Nicollet
- Nobles
- Olmsted
- Pine
- St. Louis
- Scott
- Sherburne
- Sibley
- Southwest HHS (*Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock*)
- Stearns
- Todd
- Wabasha
- Watonwan
- Wilkin
- Winona
- Wright

Hospital/Health Care Organization Contract for Public Health Activities (5 counties, 5 LHDs)

- Hubbard
- Kittson
- Lake of the Woods
- Marshall
- Roseau

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