



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2022  
For More Information, Please Contact:  
Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, NYSACHO  
518-527-3547

## **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS' STATEMENT ON LEGISLATURE'S ONE-HOUSE BUDGET BILLS**

**By Sarah Ravenhall, NYSACHO Executive Director**

(Albany, New York) "The Legislature's one-house budget has responded to NYSACHO's request for increased funding for local health departments, which comes at a critical time amidst the pandemic. Both houses maintain funding levels included in the Executive proposal, and the Senate bill would provide additional resources for county fringe rates and recognizes the need to restore funding to New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. NYSACHO applauds these provisions, as local health departments have been chronically underfunded.

"While these elements are both necessary and welcome, additional funds are still needed to increase fringe coverage, restore Article 6 cuts made in 2019 to New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and to effectively implement a 2019 state law intended to better protect children from lead poisoning. (See <https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/NYSACHO-and-partners-BLL-budget-press-release-3-11-22.pdf>)

"Our focus now will be to redouble our efforts to inform lawmakers concerning the critical need to fully fund our Article 6 requests and the 2019 Childhood Lead Poisoning Protection Law. Each year 17,000 of our children are exposed to lead, putting them at risk for developing devastating health consequences, and giving New York State the dubious distinction of having the highest number of children afflicted by lead poisoning. We can and must do better. The time to act is now. We look forward to working with the Legislature and Executive to ensure these needs are met to protect and maintain the health of communities across New York State."

(Note - A comprehensive package of public health investments identified by NYSACHO, termed the "PREPARE Act," includes a call for \$30.3 million to support child lead poisoning prevention activities. The full PREPARE Act can be found at [https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PREPARE-Act-Canva\\_12.22.21.pdf](https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PREPARE-Act-Canva_12.22.21.pdf).)

###