

2024 NYSACHO ANNUAL REPORT



**NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS**

Leading the Way to Healthier Communities

WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) supports, advocates for, and empowers local health departments' workforce to promote health and wellness, protect communities, and prevent disease, disability, and injury throughout New York State.

OUR VISION

NYSACHO is recognized as the collective voice leading policy, education, and advocacy to promote well-funded, appropriately staffed, and expertly trained local health department professionals that reflect our communities; leading to healthy outcomes for all.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY



Ensuring transparent, ethical and accountable performance.

LEADERSHIP



Developing and exemplifying the courage to set a course of action and shape the future of public health.

COLLABORATION



Working together with others to promote excellence in public health through the exchange of ideas, programs and policies.

EMPOWERMENT



Leveraging our knowledge and experience to achieve success.

RESPECT



Showing regard for self and others and maintaining an environment of teamwork, growth and enhancement.

COMMITMENT



Building passion and shared responsibility to achieve our goals.

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EXECUTIVE LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the NYSACHO's 2024 Annual Report. Over the past year, NYSACHO made significant progress in advancing key member-identified priorities - efforts aimed at strengthening local health departments (LHDs) and ensuring the long-term stability of our association.

One of our most important accomplishments in 2024 was the development of a new strategic plan that directly reflects the needs and priorities of our membership. This inclusive process was guided by active member engagement at every stage, ensuring broad input and consensus. As a result, we have created a new roadmap for success that reflects the collective needs, values, and vision of our membership. In tandem, NYSACHO refined our mission and vision statements to reaffirm the critical role we play in helping LHDs promote wellness, protect communities, and prevent disease, disability, and injury across New York State (NYS).

Workforce development remains among the most pressing challenges in public health today. In recognition of this, workforce sustainability is a core priority in NYSACHO's new strategic plan. Throughout the year, we continued our workforce enumeration study to track trends, identify gaps, and inform our advocacy, particularly in nursing, clinical services, epidemiology, and environmental health professions. These findings are guiding the creation of essential resources, including a new initiative launching in 2025 to raise awareness about career opportunities in LHDs and promote the impact of these essential roles.

On the legislative front, 2024 marked several milestone successes for NYSACHO members. After years of advocacy, NYSACHO successfully collaborated with the NYS Legislature and Governor Hochul's office to pass two critical bills that ease regulatory burdens on our members under Articles 28 and 36 of Public Health Law. Since their enactment, NYSACHO members have been actively working to finalize the implementation of the new Article 28 regulations, with a focus on ensuring clear regulatory guidance and maximum impact. Additionally, a long standing priority of our members was realized with the passage of a bill expanding eligibility for service on local boards of health. *(See our Policy & Advocacy Section for more information on NYSACHO's 2024 policy efforts and successes.)*



LINDA BEERS, MPH
NYSACHO PRESIDENT
PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR
ESSEX COUNTY



**SARAH RAVENHALL,
MHA, CHES**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NYSACHO

To strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the association itself, NYSACHO leadership took proactive steps in 2024 to mitigate risks, diversify revenue streams, and ensure full compliance with New York State nonprofit laws. As part of this effort, we secured new sources of unrestricted funding through sponsorships, exhibitors, and grants - stabilizing our financial outlook and expanding our ability to serve members. We also conducted a comprehensive review of NYSACHO's guiding policies and governance documents to ensure organizational integrity.

We are incredibly proud of NYSACHO's dedicated staff, who bring passion and excellence to their work every day. Their professionalism, adaptability, and commitment to excellence are the foundation of our success. Their work continues to empower local health officials and elevate the voice of public health across the state.

“As President of NYSACHO, I am honored to recognize the outstanding leadership of our Executive Director, Sarah Ravenhall. Under Sarah’s guidance, our organization continues to thrive, strengthening the voice of LHDs across NYS. Sarah’s ability to connect LHDs with influential public health partners has been instrumental in advancing our collective goals. Her fiscal stewardship, strategic foresight, and unwavering commitment to our members have been invaluable assets to our organization. Thanks to her dedication and vision, NYSACHO remains a powerful driving force for public health advocacy and innovation.”

- Linda Beers, NYSACHO President

We also extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed Public Health Directors and Commissioners who joined NYSACHO in 2024. Your leadership strengthens our association and our collective efforts to build healthier, more resilient communities.

Lastly, we express our deepest gratitude to every LHD leader and staff member across the state. Your tireless dedication powers the success of New York's public health system.

This report serves as a tool for you! We encourage you to use it to demonstrate the return on investment that NYSACHO membership bring your department, and to share it with your county leaders as you advocate for continued support.

Thank you for your partnership and engagement! We look forward to building on 2024's momentum together in the year ahead.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

883
BILLS TRACKED

34
BILLS CHAPTERED

Throughout 2024, NYSACHO continued to raise its visibility and influence among legislators, state partners, and public health stakeholders. Our policy and advocacy efforts focused on a range of pressing public health priorities and resulted in several meaningful legislative and regulatory successes.

Key policy areas in 2024 included:

- Closing loopholes in flavored vapor product enforcement,
- Expanding eligibility criteria for medical representatives on county boards of health,
- Strengthening vaccination requirements for children and employees at regulated children's camps, and
- Requiring adult immunizations to be added to the NYS and New York City (NYC) immunization registries.

NYSACHO also adopted new policy positions in support of:

- Expanding access to topical fluoride varnish application,
- Strengthening local emergency services,
- Authorizing emergency medical personnel to administer buprenorphine,
- Requiring hospitals to offer influenza vaccinations to patients aged 50 and older, and
- Conducting a rate study for Early Intervention service reimbursement rates.

In 2024, NYSACHO was honored to be selected as a host site for the CDC's prestigious Public Health Law Fellowship, welcoming Emory MPH Student, Hans Khoe. His work contributed valuable research around lead poisoning prevention funding and overdose prevention legislation.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

State Budget Advocacy:

NYSACHO successfully restored rabies grant funding to the final State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024-2025 budget after this funding was initially proposed for elimination. We also successfully partnered with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and provider groups to secure a much-needed 5% rate increase Early Intervention services, along with an additional 4% increase for services provided in rural and underserved communities. However, work remains ongoing to ensure full implementation of these increases.

Chapter 475 of the Laws of 2024:

This NYSACHO initiated and drafted legislation expands eligibility around the appointment of medical seats to county boards of health, including allowance for:

- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants to fill required medical board seats (while maintaining that at least one medical board seat be filled by a physician).
- Residents of contiguous counties with health-related backgrounds and active work in the district to serve.

NYSACHO also advocated for the adoption of the following laws, which were ultimately enacted, with the goal of strengthening public health in New York State:

- **Chapter 457 of the Laws of 2024:** Authorizes dental assistants and licensed practical nurses to apply topical fluoride varnish.
- **Chapter 492 of the Laws of 2024:** Requires hospitals to offer influenza vaccination to patients over the age of 50.

ONGOING ADVOCACY

In 2024, NYSACHO continued advocacy around tobacco control and immunization initiatives, including:

- Participated in a press and advocacy day for a coalition of health and education organizations in March 2024 to advance enforcement against the sale of flavored vapor products,
- Working closely with bill sponsors to include staff in vaccination requirements for children's camps, and
- Promoting the inclusion of adult immunizations into the NYS and NYC immunization registries.

We also made headway in aligning local planning processes with state goals by:

- Successfully gaining Senate sponsorship for legislation aligning the local community health assessment cycle with the State's Prevention Agenda timeline.
- Concurrently engaging with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to make this change administratively and advocating for maximum flexibility in timelines and requirements for the upcoming community health assessment cycle.

NYSACHO's Emerging Issues Committee drafted two legislative proposals to support LHD responses to the ongoing overdose epidemic. These included:

- Overdose fatality review legislation.
- Legislation to amend County Law 677, allowing the NYS Commissioner of Health to designate a local health official to receive coroner and medical examiner reports.

These efforts, supported by our CDC Public Health Law Fellow, will continue into 2025.

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

In February 2024, NYSACHO's Executive Director, Sarah Ravenhall, and Public Policy and Program Director, Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, joined NYSACHO member and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Board member, Paul Pettit in Washington DC for NACCHO Hill Week. They met with some of New York's congressional representative to advocate for federal funding support for public health.

REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY

NYSACHO continued to actively engage in administrative and regulatory advocacy across a broad spectrum of issues. Priority areas in 2024 included engaging with NYSDOH around:

- Addressing increased LHD workload demands related surveillance and reporting of Syphilis, Hepatitis B and C, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and Mpox,
- Navigating challenges with the Early Intervention Hub rollout and ongoing provider capacity challenges,
- Supporting the implementation of Lead Rental Registry statute, and
- Responding to the emergence of private pool rentals for public use via apps and social media.

NYSACHO also expanded regulatory engagement by submitting formal public comments on:

- Adult-use cannabis dispensary regulations,
- Flexibility related to disease investigation requirements, and
- Proposed doctoral degree requirements for physical therapists.

In addition, we provided feedback on draft amendments related to:

- Children's camp regulations around lifeguard staffing, violation of local orders, disease investigations pesticide application, and vaccination requirements.
- Swimming pool and bathing beach regulations.

NYSACHO further strengthened our partnerships in 2024 by newly engaging with the NYS Attorney General's office regarding the allocation of local Juul lawsuit settlement funding to support local public health initiatives.

PROGRAM SUCCESSES

WORKFORCE & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Activities in this area are funded by multiple contracts, including NYSACHO's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (newly secured funding in 2024) and Training and Education Contract (both through NYSDOH), and the Region 2 Public Health Training Center (through Columbia University).

2024 Public Health Leaders Summit

NYSACHO's annual Leadership Summit was held September 25–27, 2024, in Lake Placid, NY. The event was attended by representatives from 54 LHDs, all four NYSDOH Regional Offices, and 13 additional NYSDOH staff. Programming featured plenaries and breakout sessions focused on organizational culture, workforce recruitment and retention, and LHD-driven innovations.

Professional videography at the event produced three videos for workforce promotion:

- [PHIG Panel Video](#) featuring NYSDOH and LHD leadership
- [Public Health Careers Video](#) showcasing public health opportunities and staff testimonials
- [Why NYSACHO Membership Matters](#) highlighting our collaborative network

Calls & Webinars

- Convened bi-weekly State and Local Public Health Partners meetings to connect LHD and NYSDOH leadership, align priorities, and strengthen public health communication statewide.
- Co-hosted webinars with NYSDOH, Columbia University, and consultants on topics including the Medicaid MRT 1115 Waiver and Trauma-Informed Care.

Enumeration Study

NYSACHO conducted its third annual Enumeration Study in partnership with the Region 2 Public Health Training Center to assess workforce trends and inform planning, advocacy efforts, technical assistance, and workforce planning for LHDs across New York State.

To promote NYS workforce trends emerging from enumeration project, NYSACHO staff gave the following presentations in 2024:

- 2024 Public Health Partnership Conference - Results from Key Informant Interviews conducted in Summer 2023, focused on hiring and retention challenges and best practices, were presented at the
- 2024 NACCHO 360 - Joint presentation with NYSDOH focused on the Public Health Fellowship Corps.
- PHIG Regions 2 & 3 Meetup – Presented enumeration methodology to other states and SACCHOs

Accreditation

NYSACHO's Accreditation Workgroup met monthly to support LHDs pursuing PHAB Accreditation by facilitating peer learning, sharing tools, and engaging expert speakers.

Notable accomplishments:

- Collaborated with NYSDOH to collect LHD input for statewide PHAB support.
- Secured a PHAB mini-grant to create a crosswalk between NYSDOH and PHAB requirements and to host a QI training with the Public Health Foundation for seven LHDs.

Campaigns & Promotions

- NYSACHO's 2024 National Public Health Week campaign highlighted LHD activities aligned with APHA daily themes. Featured counties included Suffolk, Schuyler, Steuben, Chenango, Orange, Schenectady, Erie, Broome, Dutchess, Oneida, and Otsego.
- Represented LHDs at the APHA Annual Meeting through the NYSDOH exhibitor booth, promoting careers in local public health.

EARLY INTERVENTION (EI) & CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CYSHCN) PROGRAMS

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Training and Education Contract (through NYSDOH).

Statewide Summit

NYSACHO hosted the 2024 EI and CYSHCN Statewide Summit on May 21–22 in Latham, NY, in collaboration with NYSDOH's Division of Family Health. For the first time, the event brought together stakeholders from both programs, drawing 150 attendees from LHDs statewide. Sessions focused on provider capacity, EI Hub implementation, and CYSHCN program expansion.

COMMUNICATIONS SNAPSHOT



400+ SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS
ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS



5 PRESS RELEASES



220 TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE REQUESTS



70 QUERIES



600+ WEBSITE POSTS

EI Hub Support

In preparation for the launch of the new EI Hub system in fall 2024, NYSACHO dedicated extensive time to providing both technical assistance and advocacy support to LHDs - beginning well in advance of the rollout and continuing through its implementation.

Key activities included:

- Delivered 5 regional EI Hub trainings and technical assistance.
- Created a framework for EI Hub TA calls to improve regional operations (these calls have continued under NYSTEC).

Calls & Webinars

- Coordinated four Early Intervention All County Calls with NYSDOH's Bureau of Early Intervention to share updates and foster dialogue.
- Hosted a webinar on 4410 transportation advocacy, encouraging school-county collaboration.

SEXUAL HEALTH

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Training and Education Contract (through NYSDOH).

- Hosted AIDS Institute leadership on a State and Local Public Health Partners Meeting to provide updates on congenital syphilis initiatives.
- Facilitated an NYSACHO Disease Control Committee meeting featuring NYSDOH Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology on STI surveillance.
- Hosted monthly Hepatitis Surveillance Workgroup meetings in partnership with NYSDOH's Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Training and Education Contract (through NYSDOH).

Annual Environmental Health Summit

The 2024 summit welcomed 105 attendees representing 30 LHDs. This year's theme focused on climate impacts on environmental health, with presentations on Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) climate action initiatives, emerging pathogens, source water and recreational health risks, climate-linked chronic disease impacts.

Webinars & Other Meetings

- Hosted two webinars on 2024 requirements for lead testing in school drinking water systems for school districts and LHDs.
- Supported the Conference of Environmental Health Directors' Annual Meetings with registration and virtual participation.

Technical Assistance

- Provided technical assistance and coordination with NYSDOH regarding the roll-out of a lead rental registry grant to partial service LHDs to explore potential barriers and options to facilitate implementation, and generally to all impacted LHDs.
- Tracked and provided regular updates on Environmental Health related state legislation, with a total of 308 bills tracked.

Technical Assistance

Provided technical assistance to LHDs on over 30 environmental health related issues, including:

- Drone use in environmental health programs
- Wanabana lead recall
- NYCRR 10 Part 11
- AED availability legislation
- Mass gathering emergency service laws
- Homeless encampment closure authority
- Law enforcement partnerships for ATUPA
- Enforcement of flavored vapor product restrictions
- Pool rental apps and local permitting policies

CLIMATE CHANGE

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Climate Change Contract (through NYSDOH).

- Awarded funding to ten LHDs to support climate and health adaptation initiatives.
- Hosted Keith Hirokawa, JD, from Albany Law School at NYSACHO's March Membership meeting where he discussed climate and environmental law and policy.
- Hosted a webinar to showcase LHDs' climate and health adaptation projects that were funded in 2024.
- Continued to share climate and health opportunities, resources, and information on a regular basis with NYSACHO's Climate & Health email listserv. This included updating and formalizing the Resource Guide from the 2022 virtual Climate and Health Adaptation Workshop Series into a periodically updated resource for ongoing reference for LHDs.
- Launched a request for applications to provide funding to up to ten LHDs in 2025 for climate and health adaptation initiatives.

HARM REDUCTION

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Substance Use Disorder Contract (through NYSDOH)

Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium

In June of 2024, NYSACHO proudly hosted its second annual Statewide Harm Reduction Symposium. Over the past two years, the symposium has served as a vital platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and showcasing innovative efforts in substance use and harm reduction across the state. This year's event welcomed 161 attendees, with representation from 50 of 58 LHDs. The symposium featured 11 presentations that highlighted best practices and impactful initiatives from 14 counties, fostering meaningful discussions and strengthening statewide and local harm reduction efforts.

Webinars & Other Meetings

- Supported the attendance of 17 LHD staff and one NYSACHO staff at the 2024 National Forum on Overdose Fatality Review in Atlanta, GA.
- Hosted four educational webinars, with topics ranging from evidence-based practices and emerging trends in harm reduction to improving the reporting of drug overdose fatalities and building effective naloxone programming with first responders.
- Featured expert presenters at membership meetings, including:
 - Dr. Stephen Dewey (science of substance use disorders)
 - Dr. Joshua Lynch (MATTERS program)
 - Dr. David Holtgrave (policy, trends, and harm reduction feedback)

Other Activities

- Continued to disseminate the monthly NYSACHO Harm Reduction newsletter for LHD overdose prevention and response staff and provide technical assistance as needed.
- Developed a harm reduction resource library for members in collaboration with a subcontractor.
- Joined the Alcohol Policy Forum, contributed to the NYS Alcohol Policy Summit, and supported regional policy meetings organized by CUNY.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE EQUITY

Activities in this area are funded by multiple contracts, including NYSACHO's Immunization Action Plan Contract and Vaccine Equity Grant (both through NYSDOH).

Statewide Immunization Meeting

NYSACHO also hosted its esteemed annual Statewide Immunization Meeting, which emphasized vaccine equity and featured expert-led sessions on topics such as improving equitable access to COVID-19 health information, collaborative initiatives with Cornell Cooperative Extension, coalition updates, school immunization policies, and NYSIIS advancements. The program also highlighted innovative outreach efforts, including Chenango County's Childhood Chatter Podcast, Essex County's Stethoscoop Monthly Newsletter, and the integration of facilitated enrollers in vaccine clinics in Warren and Albany Counties.

Adult Coalition Meetings

In addition to our annual statewide meeting, NYSACHO coordinated six regional Adult Immunization Coalition Meetings during the fall of 2024, offering LHDs and providers vital federal and state updates alongside targeted strategies to improve adult immunization rates. These events featured guest speakers such as Families Fighting Flu, who provided valuable insights into community engagement and advocacy efforts.

Vaccine Equity

- Hosted 4 Vaccine Equity Lunch & Learn webinars with Subject Matter Experts. Topics included: Outreach to Homeless Youth, Incarcerated & Formerly Incarcerated Individuals, Latin Communities, and Refugees, Migrant, & Immigrant Populations.
- Provided monthly immunization social media posts with Spanish translations, highlighting public health observances related to various vaccinations.
- Created an easily accessible online library of past Vaccine Equity Social Media posts for LHD staff to utilize.

Other Activities

- Conducted quarterly regional immunization consortia calls, enhancing communication, coordination, and partnership-building among LHDs and the NYSDOH Division of Vaccine Excellence.
- Updated the online School Nurse Toolkit for the 2024–2025 school year, equipping school health professionals with current resources and guidance to support vaccination compliance and education.
- Produced and distributed over 1,000 copies of the 2024 Adult Immunization Schedule and the 2024 Pediatric Immunization Schedule, ensuring LHDs have the tools necessary to enhance immunization outreach and compliance efforts.
- Expanded the "Let's Get Immunized NY" campaign and collaborated with the NYS HPV Coalition to promote vaccine awareness, increase HPV vaccination rates, and support statewide efforts to reduce HPV-related cancers.
- Partnered with the NYS HPV Coalition to develop and implement evidence-based strategies, educational resources, and community outreach initiatives aimed at increasing HPV vaccine uptake and addressing barriers to immunization.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Activities in this area are funded under NYSACHO's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant (through NYSDOH).

- Hosted the annual PHEP Contract Deliverable Overview Meeting in collaboration with the NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP), ensuring alignment on key priorities and deliverables.
- Participated in quarterly Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) meetings, fostering regional collaboration and strengthening emergency response capabilities.
- Provided comprehensive Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) technical assistance, supporting Erie County in achieving PPHR re-recognition for the 2024–2028 cycle, demonstrating excellence in public health preparedness and planning.

PROJECT FIRSTLINE

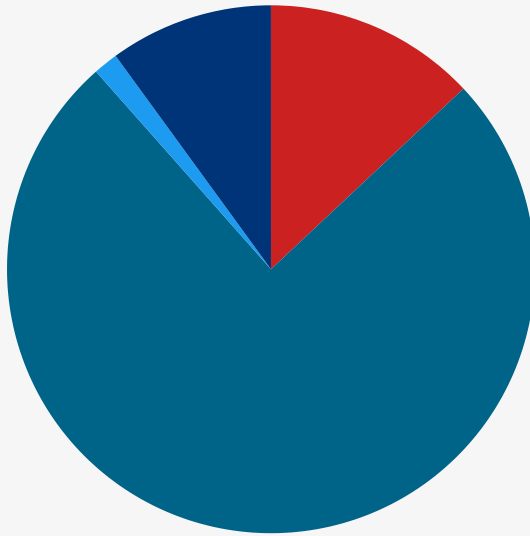
Activities in this area were funded under NYSACHO's Project Firstline Grant (through NYSDOH).

- Held 5 Project Firstline (PFL) Webinars focusing on Covid-19 & Infection Control & Spread of Infection, and Project Firstline's Reservoirs and Recognizing Risk Using Reservoirs curriculums, these webinars were attended by over 200 people.
- Organized 2 in-person PFL trainings which covered 6 PFL lessons during an 8-hour session and trained LHD staff from 20+ Health Departments.
- Established and maintained a webpage for recordings of Project Firstline trainings for use by future LHD staff.
- Distributed over 1,000 PFL focused printed materials to 24 LHDs for use in their communities.
- Successfully closed out this contract's deliverables and distributed thank you notes and PFL stickers to all members.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NYSACHO Revenue Sources

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024

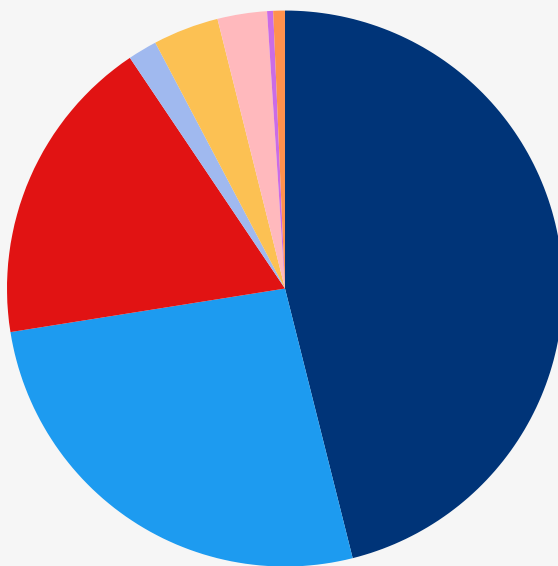


- Membership Dues \$275,520
- Contract and Grant Income \$1,598,061
- Investment Return \$32,125
- Other Income \$212,129

Total: \$2,117,835

NYSACHO Expenditures

Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024



- Personnel: Salaries, Payroll, Taxes, Benefits \$864,808
- Meetings, Conferences, Trainings \$495,607
- Consultants: Lobbyist, Comms, Speakers, Etc. \$339,329
- Rent \$31,821
- Staff & Member Travel to Conferences \$71,693
- Office Supplies and Related Expenses \$53,975
- Insurance \$6,579
- Depreciation/Misc. \$12,740

Total: \$1,876,552

To see the full audit report, visit [NYSACHO.org](https://www.nysacho.org)