

# Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health Overview

---

City Council Operational Leadership Meeting  
July 27, 2022

# Agenda

- Land acknowledgment
  - Introductions
  - Purpose and Objectives
  - Ramsey County Goals and Strategic Focus Areas
  - Public Health Department Overview
  - Strategic Plan & Other Key Priorities Overview
  - COVID 19 and Monkeypox Update
  - Closing & Discussion
-

## Introductions

Sara Hollie, Director, Public Health

Diane Holmgren, Interim Deputy Director, Administration Division Manager

Laura Andersen, Health Protection Division Manager

Dr. Lynne Ogawa, Medical Director

---

## Land Acknowledgment

Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference.

We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People. We want to acknowledge the Ojibwe, the Ho Chunk and the other nations of people who also called this place home. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the treaties made by the tribal nations that entitle non-Native people to live and work on traditional Native lands. Consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

The acknowledgment given in the USDAC Honor Native Land Guide - edited to reflect Minnesota tribes.

In review with SIA and endorsed by Shannon Geshick, Executive Director Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.



# Ramsey County Goals and Strategic Focus Areas

# Ramsey County Goals



## WELL-BEING

### **Strengthen individual, family and community health, safety and well-being**

through effective safety-net services, innovative programming, prevention and early intervention, and environmental stewardship.



## PROSPERITY

### **Cultivate economic prosperity and invest in neighborhoods with concentrated financial poverty**

through proactive leadership and inclusive initiatives that engage all communities in decisions about our future.



## OPPORTUNITY

### **Enhance access to opportunity and mobility for all residents and businesses**

through connections to education, employment and economic development throughout our region.



## ACCOUNTABILITY

### **Model fiscal accountability, transparency and strategic investments**

through professional operations and financial management.

## Ramsey County Strategic Priorities

- Talent Attraction, Retention and Promotion
- Responding to a Changing Climate through Mitigation, Adaptation, Environmental Justice, and Community Resilience
- Intergenerational Prosperity for Racial and Economic Inclusion
- Putting Well-being and Community at the Center of Justice System Transformation
- Residents First: Effective, Efficient and Accessible Operations
- Advancing a Holistic Approach to Strengthen Families
- Advancing Racial and Health Equity and Shared Community Power



# Ramsey County Service Team Structure



# Public Health Department overview

## Joint Powers Agreement

Effective July 1, 1997, the City of Saint Paul and the County of Ramsey entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to form Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health.

## 555 Cedar Building

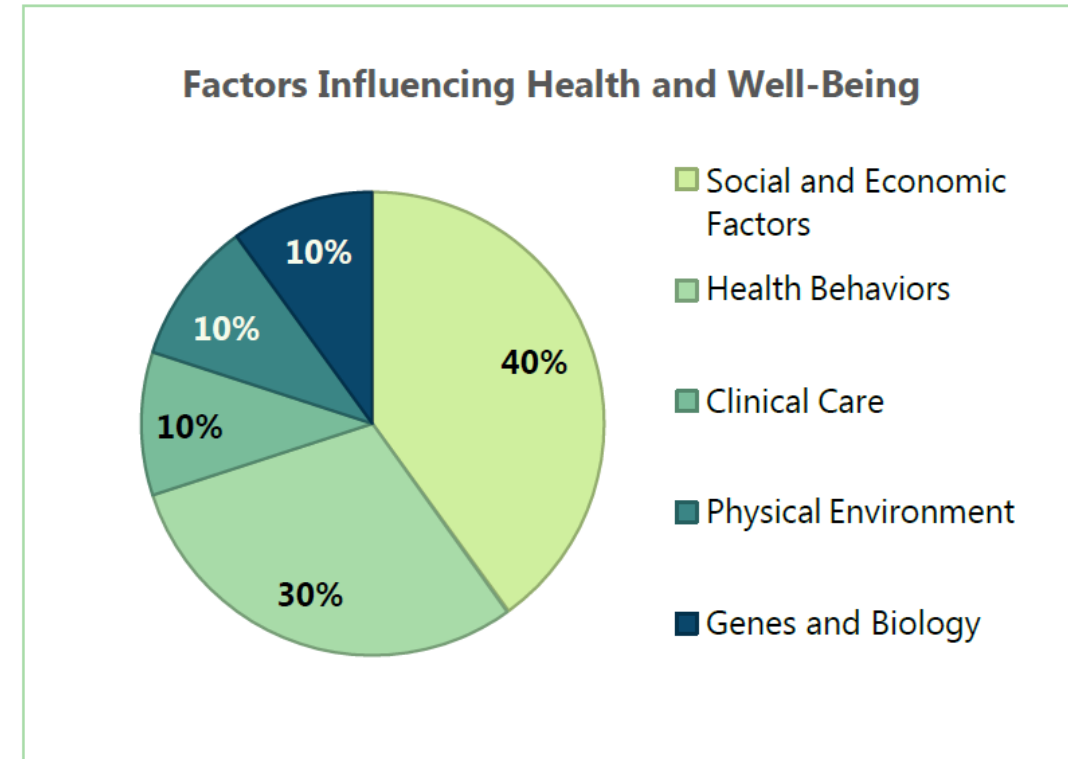
### 65 years of history

Transition existing public health services, programs and staff out of the Cedar Don Juenemann Building at 555 Cedar Street in Saint Paul by December 31, 2023.



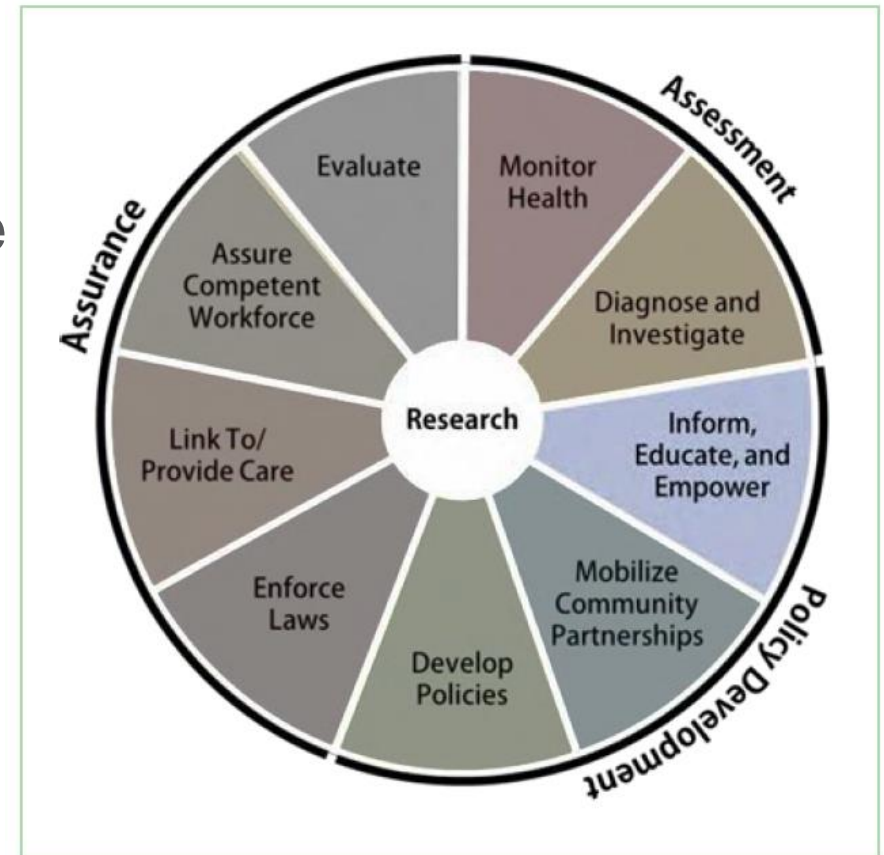
## What Public Health Is

- Priority on prevention rather than early detection and intervention
- Focus on the greatest good for the greatest number of people
- Closely linked to Social Determinants of Health



## What Public Health Does

- Assessment – knowing what needs to be done.
  - Epi surveillance, data collection and analysis, monitoring and forecasting
- Policy Development – being part of the solution
  - Legislation, rules, policies, practices and budget
  - Set priorities, provide leadership, advocate
- Assurance – making sure it happens
  - Ensure public health services are delivered by mandating, providing and partnering



## Minnesota's Public Health System

- State/Local Partnership
  - Minnesota Department of Health has authority and delegates responsibility to Community Health Boards (CHBs)
  - CHB statutory responsibility to address and implement essential local public health and assure that:
    - Complete a community health assessment and plan on a regular cycle
    - Prioritize community health needs in a manner that involves community participation
    - Develop and implement needed public health services
-

## Public Health Accreditation

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) – SPRCPH accredited in 2016

The benefits of accreditation:

- Accountability and credibility
- Leverage for funding
- Visibility
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness





## Areas of Public Health Responsibility

- (1) assuring an adequate local public health infrastructure
  - (2) promoting healthy communities and healthy behaviors
  - (3) preventing the spread of communicable disease
  - (4) protecting against environmental health hazards
  - (5) preparing for and responding to emergencies
  - (6) assuring health services.
-

## Racism as a Public Health Crisis

County declaration on July 21, 2020.

As a health equity data analysis conducted in 2017 by Public Health showed, structural racism is a primary factor in disparate health outcomes.

Efforts have been both through a public health approach and several other organizational structures to advance racial equity and combat racism across all our areas of service delivery.

# Public Health Organizational Structure

## Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICE TEAM

**Director**  
Sara Hollie

**Administrative Assistant**  
Cathy St. Michel

**Clerk Typist 3**  
TBD

**Communications Manager, HWST**  
Chris Burns

**Office of the Director**

**Medical Director**  
Dr. Lynne Ogawa

**Racial and Health  
Equity Liaison**  
Kari Umanzor

**COVID-19 Administrative  
Support**  
Amani Ward

**Interim Opioid  
Prevention Coordinator**  
Jessie Saavedra

**Administration**  
Diane Holmgren

**Clinical  
Services**  
Gina Pistulka

**Correctional  
Health**  
Michelle Dean

**Environmental  
Health**  
Rae Eden Frank,  
Interim

**Family  
Health**  
Kathy Filbert

**Health  
Protection**  
Laura Andersen

**Healthy  
Communities**  
Kee Vang

**Ramsey/Washington  
Recycling & Energy Board**  
Michael Reed

**WIC  
(Women, Infants  
and Children)**  
Kathy Duffy

## Office of the Director

- Director - Sara Hollie
- Medical Director - Dr. Lynne Ogawa
- Racial and Health Equity Liaison - Kari Umanzor
  - Racial and Health Equity Leadership Team (RHELT)
- COVID-19 Admin Support – Amani Ward
- Interim Opioid Prevention Coordination – Jessie Saavedra
- Administrative Assistance – Cathy St. Michel
- Communications Manager – Chris Burns (HWST)
- Division Managers

## Administration Overview

Division Manager: Diane Holmgren

Manages the department's operational infrastructure and support for public health programs and services; which includes finance and accounting operations, planning & performance improvement, data privacy compliance and employee health & safety.

Also includes the HouseCalls program focused on housing stability, a public health laboratory, health records and all vital records (including marriage licenses, birth and death certificates) in the county.

HouseCalls serves approximately 550 families each year

## Clinical Services Overview

Division Manager: Gina Pistulka

Provides childhood and adult immunizations and provides oversight of vaccine management in other community health care settings.

Promotes positive sexual health behaviors, provides family planning services, HIV and STI testing, PrEP, and harm reduction services.

Coordinates refugee health follow up and screening; Tuberculosis testing, treatment, case management and directly observed therapy; and provides case management for families who test positive for perinatal Hepatitis B.

In 2021, 3,447 Clients Served.

## Correctional Health Overview

Division Manager: Michelle Dean

Provides health and wellness services to incarcerated individuals at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility (RCCF), Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and the Adult Detention Center (ADC).

We serve an average of 779 sick calls per month; and 3,422 clinical encounters per month across all three facilities.

## Environmental Health Overview

Interim Division Manager: Rachel Eden Frank

Works to reduce a variety of health and environmental risks, making the county a healthier, safer environment for people to live, work and play.

The Divisions programs and services include:

- Environmental Health and Environmental Justice Policy Development, Evaluation and Planning
- Outreach and Education on Waste Reduction
- Recycling and Hazardous Waste Issues, Yard and Organics Waste Collection
- Delegated MDH licensing and inspections of Food, Pool and Lodging, Radon Detection
- Public Health Nuisance Control
- Childhood Lead Exposure and Poisoning Prevention
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulatory Compliance
- County Energy and Sustainability Coordination; Health Impacts of Climate Change.



## Family Health Overview

Division Manager: Kathy Filbert

Provides targeted home visiting services for pregnant and parenting families, including those who have low resources, refugees and immigrants, teen parents and children with special health care needs.

Services are designed to improve pregnancy outcomes; enhance child growth and development and school readiness; prevent childhood illness, unintentional injury and maltreatment; and promote health care access, self-sufficiency, child spacing and positive parenting.

In 2021, 850 families reached; and 7,789 family visits provided.

## Health Protection Overview

Division Manager: Laura Andersen

Manages planning, training, response and recovery for public health emergencies.

This team also engages in surveillance work to detect biological threats, conducts disease investigations, and provide information and consultation concerning the control of communicable diseases.

Leads the COVID response through the Incident Command System.

Direct partnership with the City of Saint Paul Emergency Management Department.

## Healthy Communities Overview

Division Manager: Kee Vang

Develops and promotes promising practices, evidence-based strategies and sustainable prevention initiatives in the following focus areas: Adolescent Health/Healthy Youth Development, Child and Teen Check-ups, chronic disease prevention, community engagement, healthy aging, health equity, Hmong community health promotion, mental well-being, SOS Sexual Violence Services and violence prevention.

Staff work in partnership to ensure policy and systems change, training, consultation and education that engages people to live more peaceful, healthy and productive lives.

## Recycling & Energy Overview

Division Manager: Michael Reed

The counties work jointly through Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) to lead and operate the facility in Newport, MN.

Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy is governed by the joint powers R&E Board, which is composed of commissioners from the two counties.

R&E serves over 800,000 residents and 70,000 businesses.

## Women, Infant & Children (WIC) Overview

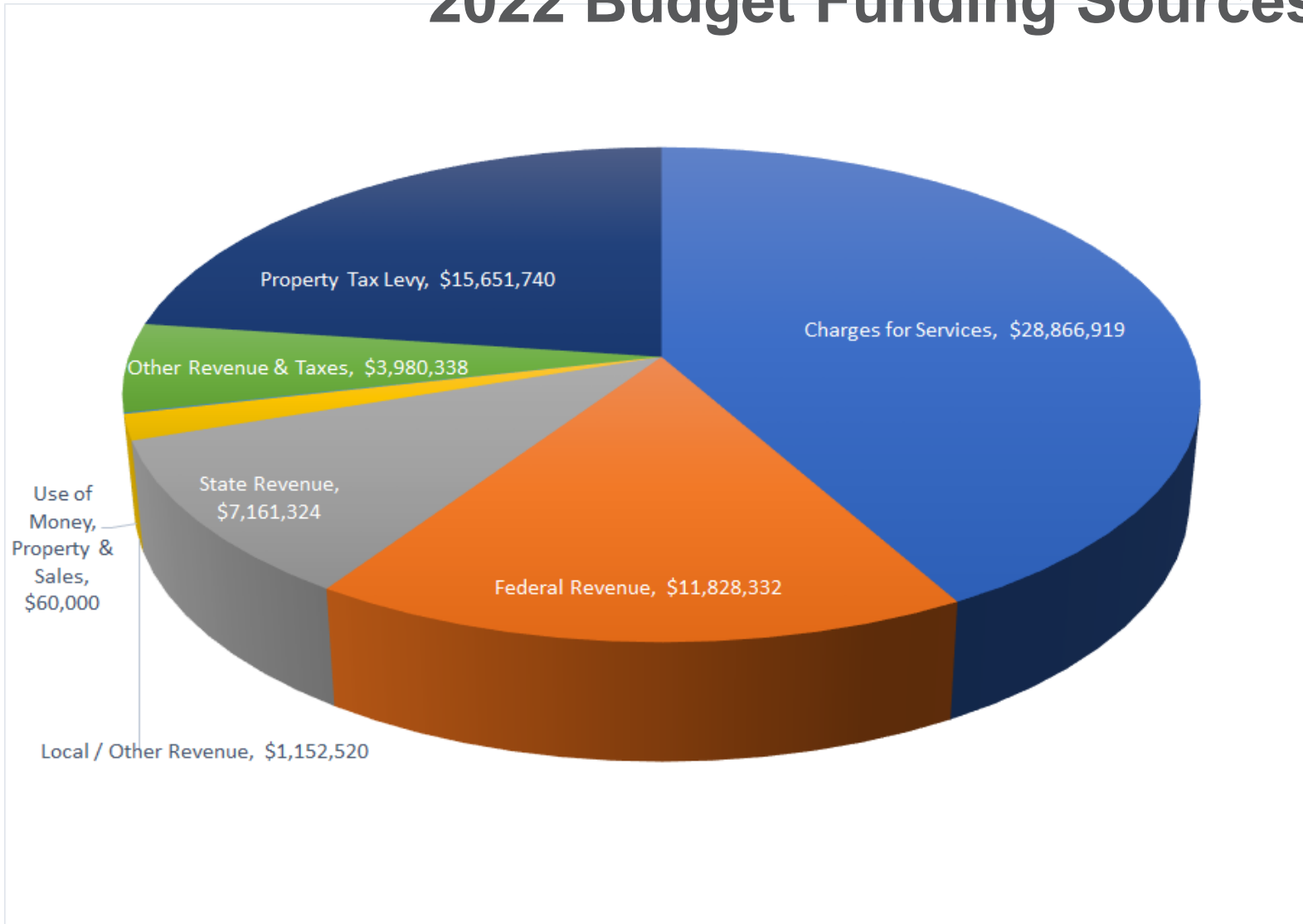
Division Manager: Kathy Duffy

Provides nutritious foods, nutrition and breastfeeding education and support, nutrition assessments, referrals and improved access to health care.

Serves women, infants, and children under the age of 5 with incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level who are at nutritional risk. Pregnant women, infants and children up to age 5 who get Medical Assistance (MA) or MN Care are also served.

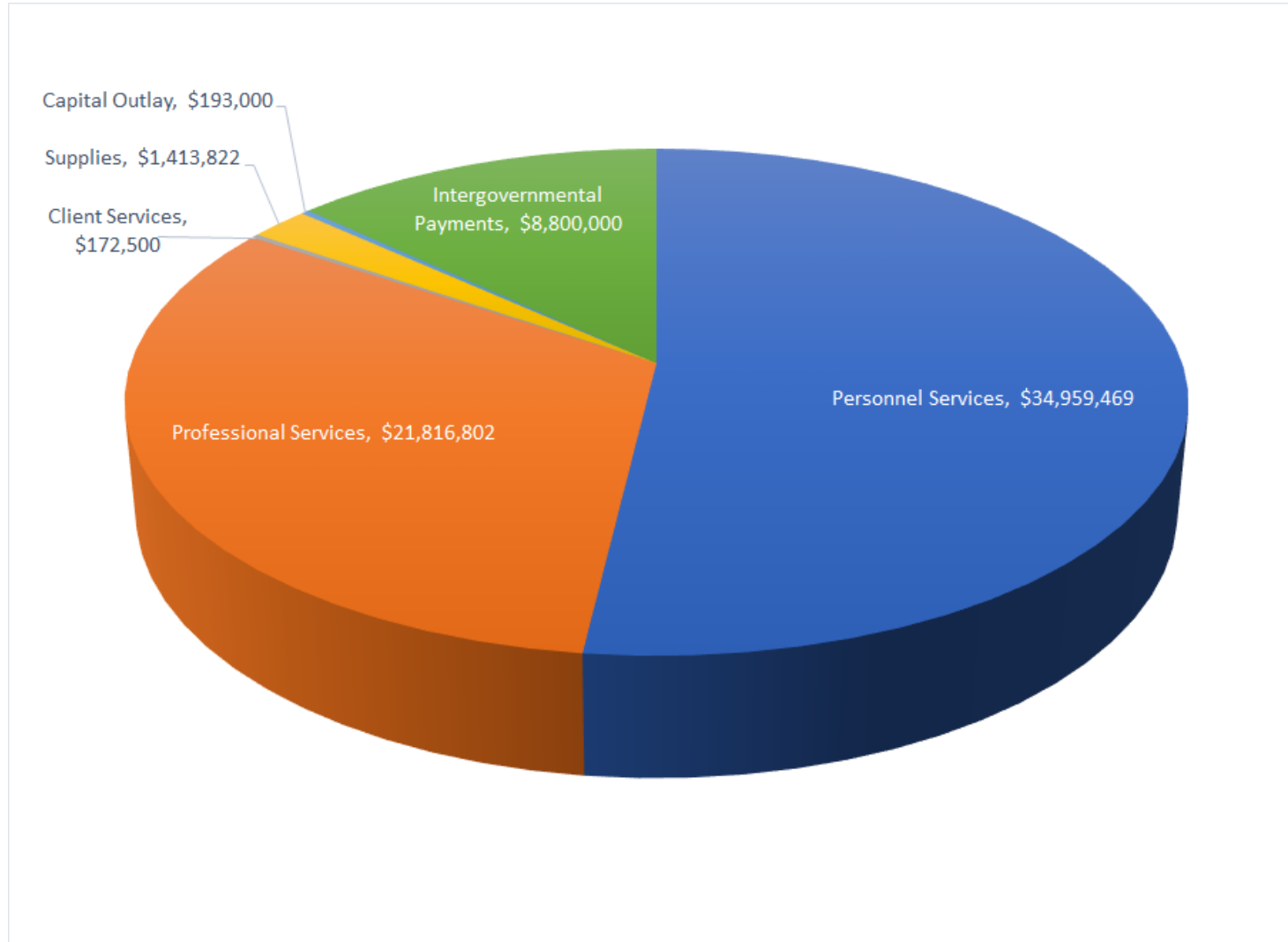
In 2021, WIC served 24,385 participants; and 14,611 different households.

# 2022 Budget Funding Sources



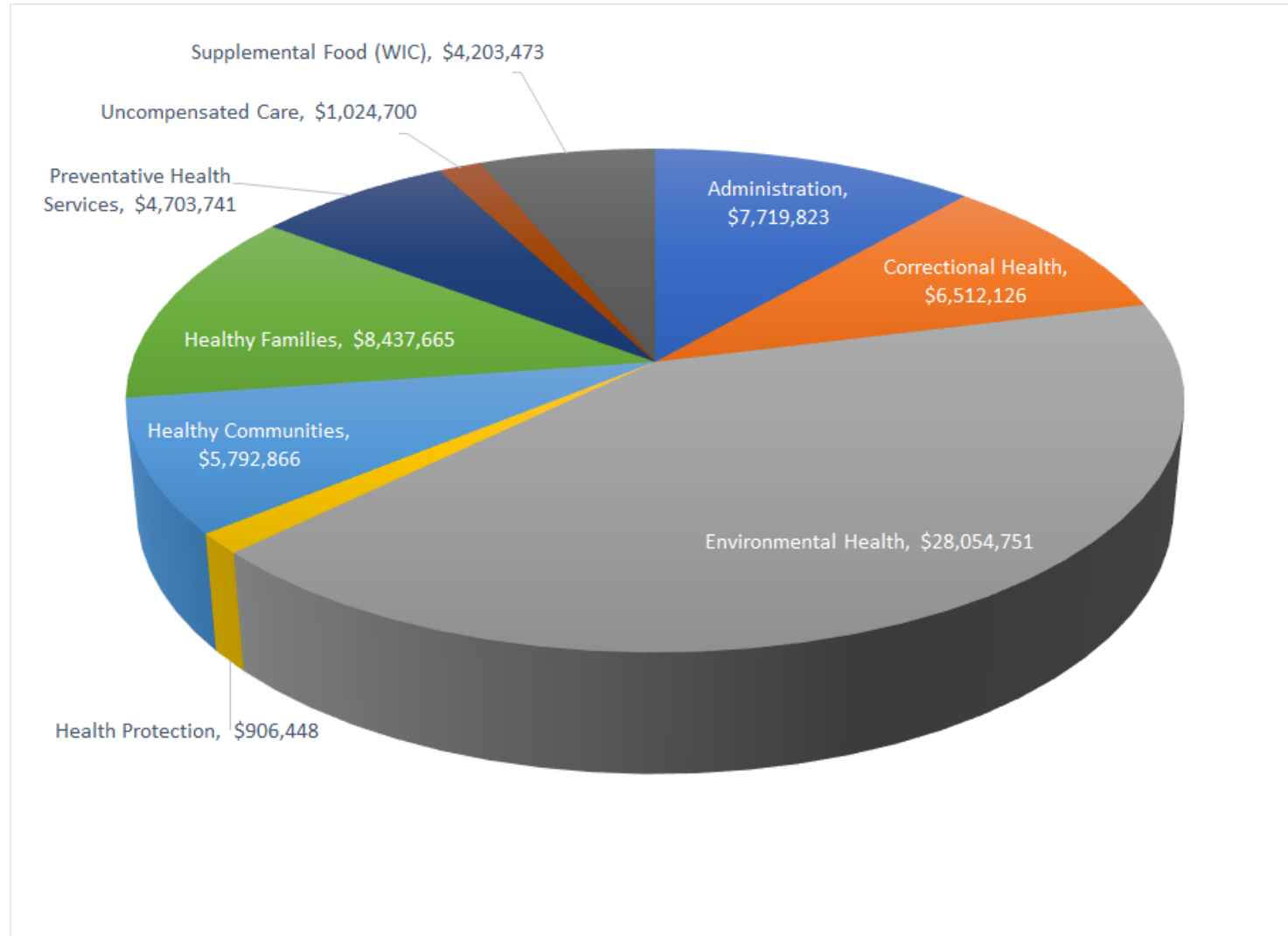
**Total**  
**\$67,355,593**

# 2022 Operations Budget



**Total**  
**\$67,355,593**  
345.8 FTEs /  
363 staff

# 2022 Division Budgets



**Total**  
**\$67,355,593**



## Coordinated Planning Approach to Public Health

- Public Health Programs
- Community Health Improvement Plan
- Department Strategic Plan



## Current Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Priorities

- Racial and Health Equity
- Healthy Eating, Active Living, and Tobacco-Free Living (SHIP)
- Access to Health Care Services
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Violence Prevention
- Climate Change
- Homelessness
- Opioids

## Strategic Plan - Strategic Directions

- Take Action to Advance Racial and Health Equity
- Partner to Champion Prevention Across the Lifespan
- Align and Leverage Resources to Support Priorities
- Create Responsive and Intentional Change

## **Take Action to Advance Racial and Health Equity**

- Invest in a workforce that reflect the communities we serve
- Eliminate racial bias from policies and procedures
- Lead community engagement through shared leadership, power, decision-making

### **Accomplishments**

- Intentional hiring to reflect communities served across staffing
- Early engagement and implementation with diverse communities to host testing and vaccine sites
- Trusted Messenger and Connector Initiatives during COVID response and beyond

## **Partner to Champion Prevention Across the Lifespan**

- Strengthen a shared understanding of public health’s role, internally (county systems) and externally (residents/communities)
- Build capacity and proficiency to engage communities, receive their evaluation of our work, apply changes that reflect community voice

### **Accomplishments**

- Engaging community partners and cultural organizations through Trusted Messenger and other programs
- Program focus: WIC, Family Health, Child and Teen Check-up, COVID testing/vaccine, infectious disease control and prevention

## **Align and Leverage Resources to Support Priorities**

- Allocate financial and staff resources to support priorities
- Streamline and coordinate grant processes

### **Accomplishments**

- Dynamically adjusted priorities in era of COVID
- Hiring RHEA, RHEL and Climate and Health planner
- Participated in service team community budget conversations
- Reviewed allocation of discretionary funding across the department
- Completed budget prioritization process in 2021

## **Create Responsive and Intentional Change**

- Build capacity for innovation and conflict resolution
- Continuously improve services and results
- Intentional use of qualitative and quantitative data

### **Accomplishments**

- Staffing and resource sharing processes for COVID response
- Enhancing outcome data and performance improvement planning
- Collection of customer satisfaction and customer experience qualitative data

## 2022 Strategic Plan Refresh - Next steps

- July/Aug – further engagement with county residents and community partner organizations
- Sept/Oct – Action team review, update workplans
- Nov/Dec – Publish draft updated Strategic Plan, community review, finalize



## Other Key Initiatives

- Opioid Prevention
- Trusted Messenger
- Violence Prevention

## COVID-19 Update

- 74,452 doses of vaccine provided since December 27, 2020
- Regular clinics at St Paul Public Schools, Camphor Memorial Church, Consulate of Mexico
- Vaccines provided at WIC clinics for children under five
- Ramsey County Case rate remains high, between 100-200 cases/100,000 each week

Situation update here: <https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/Ramsey-County-COVID-19-Situation-Update/w4ux-wmze/>

---

## Monkeypox Update

- 4 cases identified in Ramsey County (19 statewide)
- Clinic 555 is now providing:
  - Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to contacts of confirmed cases; and
  - Expanded Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP++) to individuals who are HIV+ or on HIV PrEP
- This work is coordinated across jurisdictions and in alignment with State's guidance.

Thank you!