

Fargo Cass Public Health

*Our mission is to **prevent** disease and injury, **promote** wellness and **protect** community health.*

About us

Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) operates eight divisions, six of which are public-facing, that deliver more than 40 unique programs and services to residents in Fargo, West Fargo, Cass County and the surrounding SE North Dakota counties. We play a critical role in providing essential services by promoting wellness initiatives for residents and leading the response during public health emergencies. We work to support the most vulnerable populations by partnering with schools, organizations and the public to build a healthier future for the whole community.

A team of 150+ employees are working to support community health by providing:

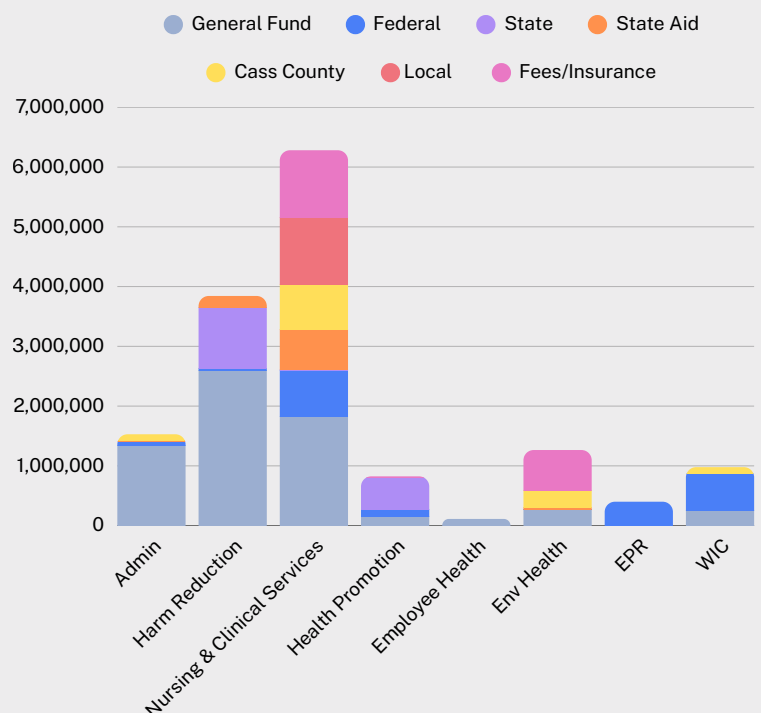
- Inspection services at all local eateries, bars, pools, pet stores and body art facilities.
- Preventative screenings and referrals for breast, cervical, colon and skin cancer.
- Education encouraging healthy lifestyle behaviors in schools, childcare settings and for adults.
- Nurse home visits for adult and maternal child health.
- Emergency preparedness and response for long-term care facilities, hospitals and group homes.

The unseen efforts of public health prevent disease outbreaks and food-borne illnesses so our community can be healthy and thrive. We work to implement evidence-based policies and support behavior change to decrease disease and the damaging effects of addiction. We work in partnership with key stakeholders to identify and address priority concerns for our community. We are committed to doing our part to build a stronger, healthier community.

About our budget

Our budget is as complex as our services. The 2026 budget for FCPH is \$15,327,549. This dollar amount is not drawn solely from the City of Fargo general fund. The City of Fargo provides 43% of our budget. Identifying alternative revenue streams such as grants, billing codes and fees for services is part of our day-to-day operations. Alternate funding sources include grants, federal, state, county governments and private sources, as well as licensing and fees for services. We strongly believe in proactive upstream approaches to fix problems at their source rather than managing the downstream effects.

2026 Funding Sources by FCPH Division



CLINIC SERVICES

The Title X clinic provides confidential family planning services based on a sliding fee scale; no one is denied services due to inability to pay. Provides annual exams, birth control, STI/STD screening, immunizations and reproductive health education and referrals.

Family Planning clinic visits.....	2,300
STI/STD related lab tests ordered.....	4,248
Immunizations given.....	4,151

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

Offers home visits for pregnant individuals, supports active lifestyles for older adults, provides medication management and personal care services for qualifying residents, and supports students within Fargo Public Schools as well as four rural Cass County schools.

Adult Health home visits.....	2,841
MCH client (mom/baby)home visits.....	4,374
School nurse/health aide office visits.....	70,433
Home Health Aide visits.....	2,098

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Regulates over 1,700 licenses across 1,032 establishments in Fargo, West Fargo, and six southeastern North Dakota counties. In 2025, 2,855 health inspections were conducted to ensure safe and sanitary conditions, which included:

FDA Food & Beverage Establishments.....	1,984
Public Health Nuisances.....	902
Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems.....	212
Pool Facilities.....	157
Body Art Establishments.....	146
Lodging Facilities.....	83

HEALTH PROMOTION

Supports and encourages healthy behaviors through education about tobacco and nicotine use, substance misuse, physical activity, cancer prevention, obesity prevention and mental well-being.

Tobacco and Nicotine

Cessation clients.....	51
ND Quits Enrollments.....	112
K-12 students reached w/ classroom presentations.....	1,707

Women's Way Clients served.....	257
Childcare providers trained in child physical activity.....	2,018

HARM REDUCTION

The Harm Reduction Division is comprised of the Gladys Ray Shelter, Withdrawal Management Unit, Mobile Outreach Program, Downtown Engagement Center and the Harm Reduction Center (housing the Syringe Services Program). Offers low-barrier services for people experiencing homelessness, including shelter and non-medical detox. Programs serve as a pathway to additional health/social services, including treatment and recovery.

DEC guest encounters.....	31,484
DEC - unique individuals served.....	1,608
Mobile Outreach Program (MOP) transports....	3,266
Syringe Services Program visits.....	8,883
Naloxone saves	569

- 320 MOP transports (instead of ambulance) to emergency departments resulted in a cost saving of \$509,120.
- 1,631 MOP transports to detox (instead of jail detox) resulted in a cost savings of \$195,720.
- Opioid settlement funds support the Syringe Services Program and Withdrawal Management Unit.

WIC PROGRAM

Serves women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or have recently had a baby, families with infants and children under age five who meet an income guideline and live in ND. Provides quality nutrition and breastfeeding education, health assessments, referrals and nutritious food.

Individuals served in Cass County.....	4,353
Monthly average of client contacts.....	2,737

- For each \$1 spent on WIC, the federal government saves \$2.48 in medical, educational and productivity costs.
- Fargo WIC served 1,297 infants last year, which is 51% of babies born in Cass County to ND residents.
- WIC federal dollars redeemed in Cass County grocery stores totaled over \$2.7 million dollars in 2025.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

Provides preparedness training, planning and response. Partners with long-term care facilities, hospitals and vulnerable populations to strengthen readiness.

Hazmat/environmental spill response.....	77
Vulnerable population trainings/inspections.....	141