



Policy to Practice: Local Public Health Transformation Under SAPHE 2.0

March 3, 2026

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Today's panelists



Derek Brindisi
• Town Manager, Plymouth



Paul McLatchy III
• Town Administrator, Ashford



Dominick Pangallo
• Mayor, Salem

Legal disclaimer

- Documents and information on this webinar are for educational purposes only and are not to be construed as legal advice.
- For legal advice, please contact your city or town attorney.

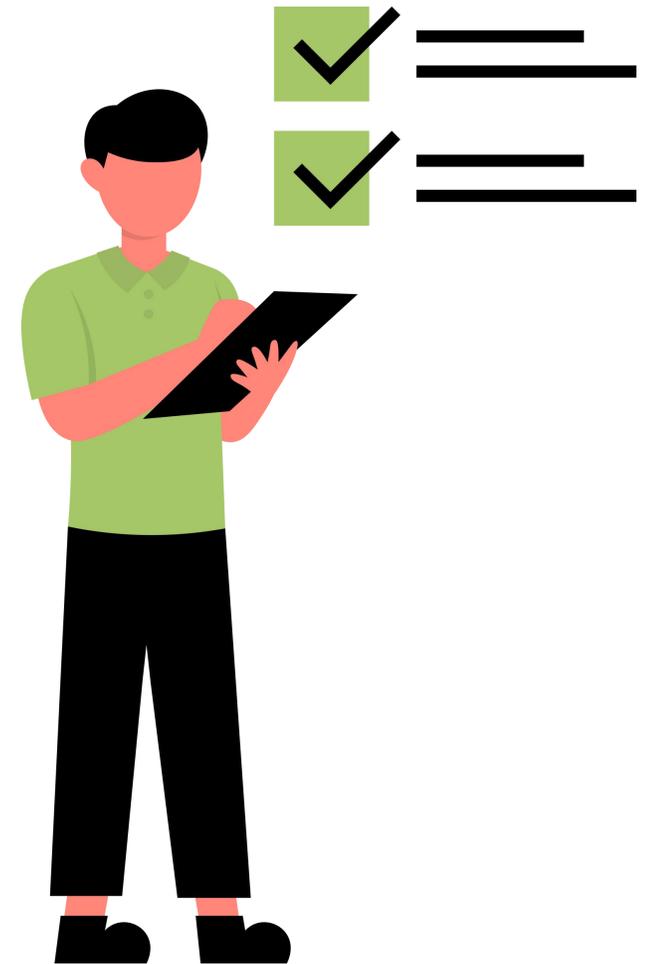
Agenda

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- 02 Background
- 03 Local public health transformation journey
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- 06 SAPHE 2.0: Reporting
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Presentation Goal

After this session, attendees will

- Understand the local public health system transformation underway in Massachusetts
- Understand how this transformation, under SAPHE 2.0, is improving municipalities and making every person in Massachusetts safer and healthier
- Be familiar with specific examples of local system transformation



Background: what is local public health?

- Air pollution control
- Asbestos
- Barn and animal inspections
- Beach water safety
- Beaver trapping
- Body work, microblading, and tattoo parlor inspections
- Burial permits
- Cannabis
- Cell towers
- Chronic disease and illness prevention
- Community health needs assessments and improvement planning
- Community planning
- Complaints
- Death certificates
- Domestic violence prevention
- Drinking water safety
- Emergency preparedness plans
- Environmental health
- Falls prevention
- Food protection
- Foodborne illness surveillance and investigation
- Gun violence prevention
- Hazardous waste/materials

For purposes of this presentation, “SAPHE 2.0” refers to Chapter 111 section 27D and Sections 307, 308, and 309 of Chapter 238 of the Acts of 2024





A healthier Massachusetts starts with us

Blueprint Report Recommendations Released

June 2019: The Special Commission published its report, outlining six interlocking recommendations to strengthen Massachusetts' local public health service delivery.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Signed into Law

March 2021: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this federal law provided essential funding to support state and local governments address health impacts.

OLRH's Strategic Plan Released

January 2024: The Office of Local and Regional Health developed its plan building on the Blueprint and ARPA's momentum to ensure the successful transformation of the state's local public health system.

Special Commission Established

August 2016: The Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health (SCLRPH) was established to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the state's public health system.

State Action for Public Health Excellence (SAPHE) 1.0 Enacted

April 2020: The state enacts a plan to strengthen and preserve local public health through cross-jurisdictional sharing and establishing performance and workforce standards.

Performance Standards for Local Public Health Published

October 2023: The state's first set of performance standards for public health services was released, an important step in strengthening services.

SAPHE 2.0 Enacted

November 2024: SAPHE 2.0 is signed into law, codifying much of the Blueprint's recommendations, which DPH began implementing in 2021.



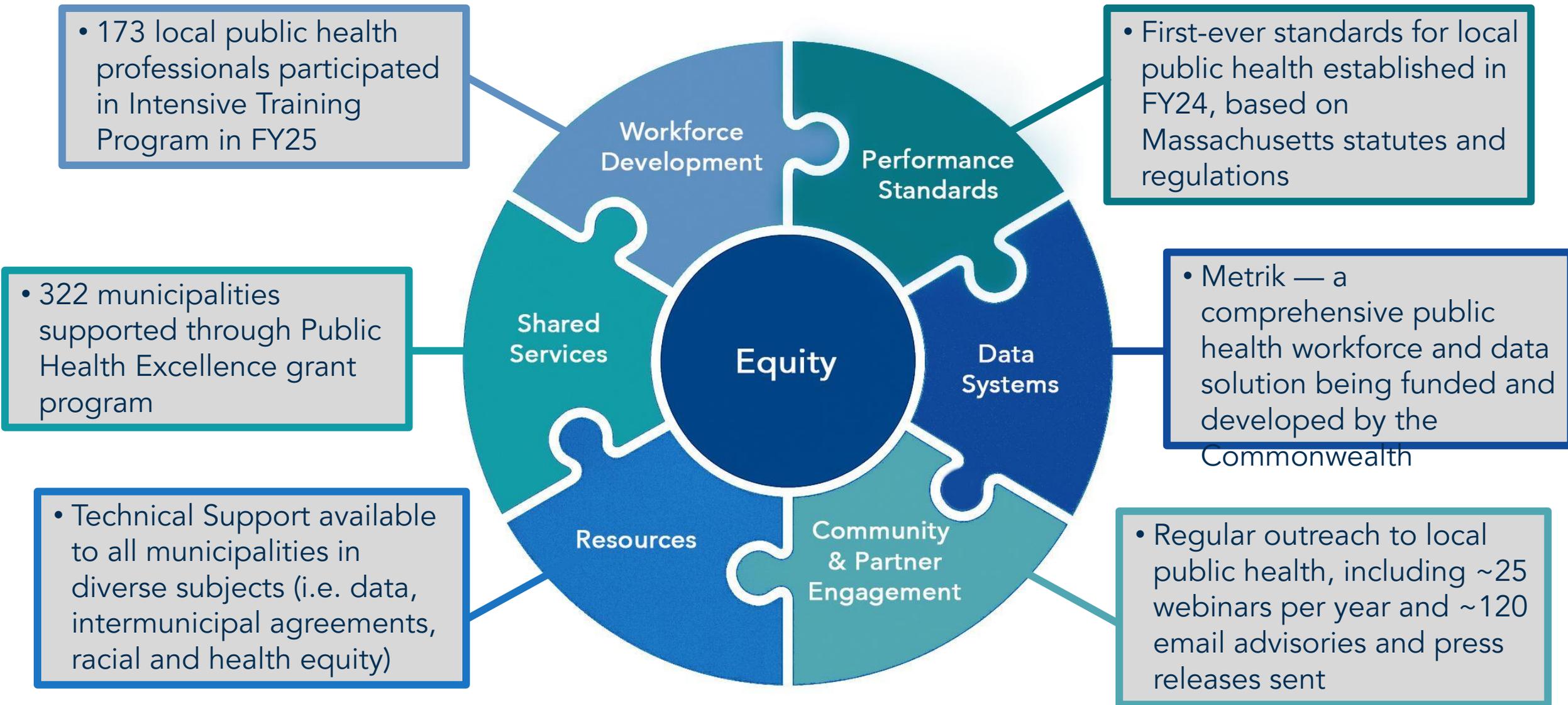
SAPHE 2.0: Creating an equitable local public health system

By working together and with sufficient state funding to implement SAPHE 2.0, we can create an equitable local public health system in Massachusetts through cross-jurisdictional service sharing, a unified data solution, a highly skilled and trained workforce, and a set of performance standards.



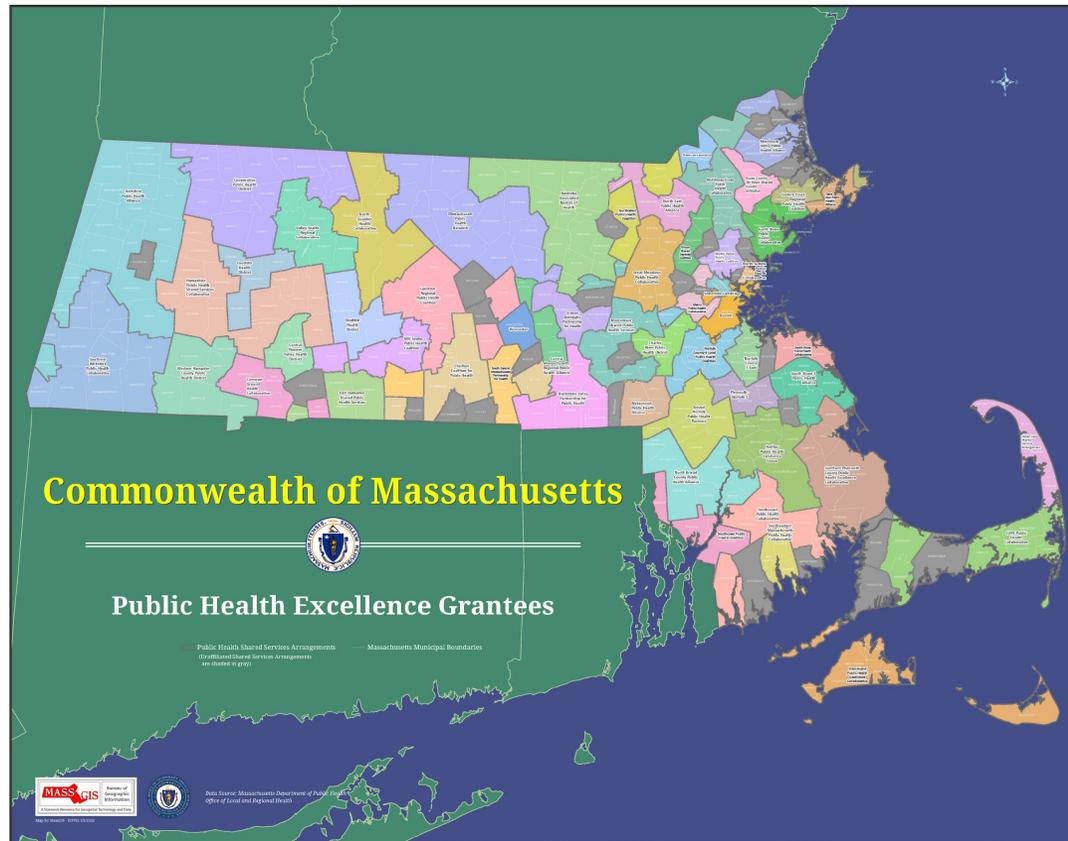
These efforts will significantly improve the lives of every person who lives and works in Massachusetts, bringing hope for a safer, healthier Commonwealth.

SAPHE 2.0: Ongoing investments in LPH



SAPHE 2.0: Cross-jurisdictional sharing of public health services

In January 2021, DPH launched [the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Program](#) (PHE Grant Program)



FY26 by the Numbers

\$26.2M
in grant funding
awarded statewide

270+
public health
workers funded

FY26

56
PHE grantees

322
municipalities
supported

SAPHE 2.0: New reporting



New annual reporting
for local boards of
health



New
reporting
for DPH

FY26 SAPHE 2.0 reporting timeline overview

- Available to every local public health staff person, ISD, contractor, and LBOH
- Collects information about local public health workforce expertise and responsibilities

Workforce Standards Survey

Launch: Feb 23
Close: April 10



- Available to every local public health entity
- Typically led by Health Director with support from Board of Health, Inspectional Services, etc.
- Collects current local capacity to meet Performance Standards

Performance Standards Survey

Launch: March 9
Close: April 30



- Survey results will be used to identify and report statewide training and resource needs
- Workforce survey collects aggregate results at regional or statewide-level

Data Analysis Spring 2026



DPH will provide extensive guidance and technical assistance to LPH throughout these processes

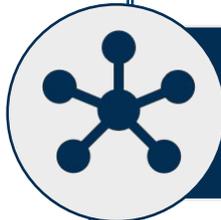
Why SAPHE 2.0 Reporting Matters



Annual reporting is included under SAPHE 2.0



Data collected will allow ongoing monitoring to improve understanding of local public health capacity



Annual data collection process will provide a consistent, standardized, and integrated reporting mechanism



Reporting surveys and results have been designed to support system improvement

What you can do

- Talk to your municipality's health director/health agent about their work and how they are using the Public Health Excellence grant program
- [Take a look at the map](#) to learn more about your municipality's participation in the Public Health Excellence and training hub programs
- Support your municipality in completing the SAPHE 2.0 reporting – Workforce Standards survey (due by April 10) and Performance Standards survey (due by April 30)

Local examples



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• Mayor, Salem

Questions?



Thank you for the opportunity to share this information with you today

Please direct any questions to the Office of Local and Regional Health,
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