



# 2025 Public Health Impact Report



Protecting • Preventing • Supporting • Sustaining



# Inside This Report

Executive Summary.....	2
A Message from the Director	
2025 Public Health Impact.....	3
Key indicator dashboard at a glance	
Preventing Disease Before It Spreads.....	4
Surveillance, testing, and early intervention that protects community health	
Protecting Community Health Through Environmental Safety.....	6
Prevention through safe food, water, and environments	
Protecting Children & Families.....	8
Healthy beginnings through nutrition, education, and early support	
Protecting People & Supporting Long-Term Health.....	10
Care coordination, continuity, and supportive services	
Expanding Access to Care.....	12
RHC services, specialty care, and local access to clinical services	
Building a Strong Public Health System.....	14
Infrastructure, training, and readiness that supports all public health services	
Emergency Response & Community Recovery.....	16
When the unexpected happens, public health responds	
Looking Forward.....	17
Meeting people where they are with care, clarity, and respect	
Financial Summary.....	18
Community Partners.....	19

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# A Message from the Director

Dear Community Members,

Public health is often most visible during moments of crisis, but its greatest impact happens quietly—through prevention, preparation, and sustained support for the community. This report reflects a year of steady work focused on protecting health, preventing disease, and strengthening the systems that support long-term well-being.

In 2025, the Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center centered its efforts on impact over activity. Our work prioritized early detection of health threats, safe environments, access to care, and ongoing support for individuals and families. This included strengthening disease prevention through surveillance, immunizations, and the launch of local public health laboratory services, as well as expanding efforts focused on healthy beginnings and continuity of care.

Equally important was the work happening behind the scenes. Investments in systems, policies, and infrastructure ensured services remained reliable, compliant, and responsive during a year shaped by change. These foundational efforts make prevention possible and allow public health to function effectively long before a crisis occurs.

This impact report is designed to show not only what we do, but why it matters. Public health succeeds when problems are prevented before they happen and when communities are supported early, consistently, and with purpose.

Sincerely,



Autumn Grim, MPH  
Director, Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center



Cape Girardeau County Public

2 Health Center

573-335-7846

[www.capecountyhealth.com](http://www.capecountyhealth.com)

# 2025 Public Health Impact – At a Glance

Key indicators of community health and system performance

**> 34,812**  
**Total Services Provided\***

\*Services that can be counted; does not include phone calls and all follow up activities.

## Prevention & Clinical Services



**4,957**  
Vaccinations



**1,365**  
RHC Visits



**963**  
ID Specialty  
Visits



**30**  
Women's  
Health Visits

## Disease Prevention & Detection



**1,571**  
Disease  
Investigations



**20**  
Drive-Through  
Clinics



**64**  
Individuals  
Utilized Lab  
Services (NEW)

## Children & Families



**1,001**  
Pregnant  
Women Served



**680**  
Nutrition/Breast  
Feeding Visits



**12,465**  
WIC Clinic  
Services

## Environmental Health & Safety



**1,296**  
Inspections &  
Site Visits



**73**  
Septic  
Applications



**229**  
Water  
Samples

## Emergency Response & Readiness

- Delta, Missouri tornado response & recovery
- Volunteer coordination leadership
- Multiple product recalls managed

## System Strengthening – New in 2025

- Public Health Laboratory Services
- Child Car Seat Safety Program
- Expanded Women's Health & Specialty Care
- Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Regional Team

# Preventing Disease Before It Spreads

**Early detection turns uncertainty into action.**

Preventing disease is one of public health's most essential — and least visible — responsibilities. Long before an outbreak becomes a headline, surveillance, testing, and rapid response efforts are already underway to identify risks, confirm cases, and stop illness from spreading in the community.

In 2025, the health center strengthened its prevention capacity by integrating communicable disease surveillance, immunization services, and newly established local public health laboratory services. Together, these efforts improved speed, coordination, and community-level protection.



## How prevention works.

Specimens are collected through clinical partners, community testing, and routine surveillance activities.

### Test

Specimens collected through clinics, community testing, and surveillance.

### Detect

Cases identified through reporting, investigation, and in-house testing.

### Respond

Case investigations, contact tracing, and targeted outreach.

### Prevent

Vaccination, education, and early intervention.

## New in 2025: Laboratory Services

In 2025, the health center launched local public health laboratory services, expanding the community's ability to detect and respond to disease quickly and effectively. Bringing testing closer to home reduced turnaround times, improved coordination with disease investigators, and strengthened the overall public health response system.

This investment increased local capacity during periods of high demand and enhanced readiness for emerging health threats — allowing staff to move more efficiently from detection to action.

### Why This Matters

Early detection and rapid response prevent small problems from becoming larger emergencies. Much of this work happens quietly, but its impact is significant: outbreaks that never occur, hospitalizations that are avoided, and communities that remain healthier because risks were identified early.

Preventing disease before it spreads protects individuals, families, and the healthcare system as a whole — and remains a cornerstone of effective public health practice.

The following page highlights how these prevention efforts translated into action in 2025.

# Preventing Disease Before It Spreads

Early detection and rapid response are the foundation of effective public health. Surveillance, testing, immunization, and accessible prevention services work together to protect community health — often before problems are visible.

4,957

Vaccines Administered

1,571

Disease Investigations Completed

20

Drive-Through Clinics

## Prevention Activity

## What We Did

## Why It Matters

### Communicable Disease Surveillance

Monitored disease reports, investigated cases, and coordinated follow-up with healthcare providers and community partners.

- Early detection allows faster response and helps prevent further spread of illness.

### Immunization & Drive-Through Services

Expanded access to vaccination through clinics and enhanced drive-through services designed for speed, safety, and convenience.

- Reduces barriers to prevention and increases participation in protective health measures.

### Public Health Laboratory Services (New)

Launched in-house testing to give community members accessible tools to monitor their health status.

- Routine lab screening helps identify early signs of chronic disease, enabling timely action before conditions become more serious or costly—while strengthening population-level health

# Protecting Community Health Through Environmental Safety

**Healthy environments prevent illness before it begins.**

Much of public health's most effective work happens long before an illness is identified or a complaint is filed. By shaping safe environments where people live, work, learn, and gather, environmental health services help prevent disease, injury, and exposure before harm occurs.

In 2025, the health center focused on protecting community health through environmental safety by maintaining standards, conducting routine inspections, and responding to environmental risks that could impact public well-being. This work provides an essential layer of prevention that supports health across the entire community.



**Preventing illness through safe environments.**

Environmental health services protect public health by addressing risks at their source. Restaurant inspections help prevent foodborne illness, water and wastewater oversight reduces exposure to contamination, and inspections of childcare facilities, lodging, and other community settings help ensure safe conditions for residents and visitors alike.

By maintaining consistent oversight and enforcing public health standards, environmental health staff help prevent communicable diseases and environmental exposures from occurring in the first place.

## Protecting Health Where People Live and Gather

In 2025, environmental health efforts continued to focus on high-impact settings, including food service establishments, onsite wastewater systems, childcare facilities, and other regulated environments. These services support safe daily activities and protect vulnerable populations, particularly children, families, and those with increased health risks.

Much of this work happens quietly and routinely, but its impact is far-reaching — reducing preventable illness, protecting community confidence, and supporting safe spaces throughout the county.

### Why This Matters

Healthy environments are foundational to healthy communities. When environmental risks are identified early and addressed consistently, illness is prevented, healthcare systems are protected from avoidable strain, and communities remain safer overall.

Environmental health services ensure that prevention is built into everyday life — protecting community health long before problems become visible.

The following page highlights how environmental health services protected community health in 2025.

# Protecting Community Health Through Environmental Safety

  
**Food & Beverage Inspections**

**1,026**

**1,296 Total Inspections & Site Visits**



**154**

Temporary Food Event Inspections



**43**

Lodging Inspections



**73**

Septic Applications

## Continuous Community Safeguards



**229**

Water Samples



**128**

Complaints



**47**

Childcare Inspections

**32**

## Emergency & Environmental Response

Responses to environmental hazards, recalls, and urgent public health concerns.

These activities represent continuous, legally mandated protections that prevent illness, injury, and costly outbreaks before they occur.

# Protecting Children & Families

**Healthy beginnings create stronger communities.**

Supporting children and families is one of the most impactful investments public health can make. Health outcomes across the lifespan are shaped early — by access to nutrition, safe environments, preventive care, and support during critical stages of development.

In 2025, the health center focused on protecting children and families by strengthening programs that support healthy pregnancies, early childhood development, and family stability. These efforts were designed to reduce risk, address disparities, and ensure families have access to resources that promote long-term well-being.



**Supporting healthy beginnings.**

Nutrition, education, and early intervention play a vital role in maternal and child health. Through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, families received nutrition support, breastfeeding education, and referrals to additional services during pregnancy and early childhood — helping ensure children start life with the resources they need to thrive.

These services not only support physical health, but also strengthen family stability during some of the most important developmental years.

## Turning Data Into Prevention

In 2025, the health center expanded its work related to fetal and infant mortality, focusing on understanding the factors that contribute to loss and identifying opportunities for prevention. Through review, analysis, and collaboration with partners, this work helps transform data into actionable insights that guide future interventions.

By examining trends, identifying gaps, and supporting informed decision-making, these efforts aim to reduce preventable loss and improve outcomes for mothers and infants across the community.

### Why This Matters

Protecting children and families strengthens the foundation of community health. When families are supported early, risks are reduced, outcomes improve, and long-term health disparities can be addressed more effectively.

Much of this work happens quietly, but its impact is lasting — healthier pregnancies, stronger starts for children, and families better equipped to support their own well-being.

**The following page highlights how these efforts supported children and families in 2025.**

# Protecting Children & Families

## *Healthy beginnings create stronger communities.*

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### **Supporting Healthy Beginnings**

Through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, families received nutrition support, breastfeeding education, and referrals to additional services during pregnancy and early childhood — helping ensure children start life with the resources they need to thrive.

These services support physical health while also strengthening family stability during some of the most important developmental years.

### **Turning Data Into Prevention**

In 2025, the health center expanded its work related to fetal and infant mortality through participation in the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) process, focusing on understanding contributing factors and identifying opportunities for prevention through case review, data analysis, and collaboration with community partners.

By transforming data into actionable insight, this work supports informed decision-making and future interventions aimed at reducing preventable loss and improving outcomes for mothers and infants.

### **Why This Matters**

Protecting children and families strengthens the foundation of community health. When families are supported early, risks are reduced, outcomes improve, and long-term disparities can be addressed more effectively.



**1,001**

Pregnant Women Served



**680**

Nutrition & Breastfeeding Support Visits



**12,465**

Total WIC Clinic Services



# Protecting People & Supporting Long-Term Health

## Care works best when it is consistent, accessible, and sustained over time.

Public health does not end when an immediate risk is addressed. For many individuals, long-term health depends on ongoing access to care, consistent support, and systems that reduce barriers to staying engaged in treatment over time.

In 2025, the health center focused on protecting people and supporting long-term health by strengthening services that prioritize continuity, stability, and individualized care. These efforts were designed to support individuals managing chronic and communicable conditions while promoting health outcomes that extend well beyond a single visit or intervention.

## Supporting Continuity of Care

For individuals living with HIV, consistent access to medical care and supportive services is essential to long-term health. Through HIV case management services, clients received coordinated support focused on care engagement, treatment adherence, and connection to medical and supportive resources.

These services emphasize trust, confidentiality, and long-term relationships — recognizing that sustained health outcomes are built through ongoing support rather than episodic care.

## Expanding Access to Ongoing Health Services

In 2025, the health center also expanded access to local public health laboratory services to support individuals managing chronic conditions. By providing low-cost, local laboratory testing options, these services helped reduce financial and logistical barriers to routine monitoring and ongoing care.

Reliable access to laboratory services allows individuals to stay engaged in treatment, monitor health status over time, and make informed decisions alongside their healthcare providers — supporting stability and continuity in long-term health management. By meeting people where they are and addressing barriers early, these efforts help prevent interruptions in care that can lead to poorer health outcomes and increased strain on the healthcare system.

## Why This Matters

Supporting long-term health protects both individuals and the broader community. When people are able to stay engaged in care, health outcomes improve, preventable complications are reduced, and public health resources can be used more effectively. Much of this work happens quietly and over extended periods of time, but its impact is significant — healthier individuals, stronger care connections, and communities better supported through sustained public health engagement.

**The following page highlights how long-term health services supported individuals in 2025.**

# Protecting People & Supporting Long-Term Health



## HIV Care Coordination

129

Individuals Supported  
Through HIV Case  
Management

## Laboratory Services

64

Individuals Utilized Testing  
to Provide Support for  
Ongoing Care

### Why This Matters

Consistent access to care and supportive services helps people stay engaged in treatment, manage health over time, and reduce preventable complications — strengthening both individual and community health.

# Expanding Access To Care

**Care works best when it is close to home and easy to reach.**

Access to timely, reliable healthcare is essential to individual and community health. For many residents, proximity, availability, and continuity of care determine whether services are accessed early or delayed until health concerns become more complex.

In 2025, the health center expanded access to care through Rural Health Clinic (RHC) services designed to meet community needs locally and reduce barriers to receiving timely medical care. These services focused on improving availability, expanding specialty access, and strengthening care options for women and families.



## Bringing Specialty Care Closer to Home

In 2025, the health center expanded RHC services by adding infectious disease specialty care one day per week. This addition allows patients to receive expert consultation, treatment, and reminders for complex or ongoing infectious conditions without traveling outside the community.

By offering infectious disease services locally, the clinic improves continuity of care, supports treatment adherence, and reduces the burden associated with long-distance specialty referrals.

## Expanding Women's Health Services

Women's health services were significantly expanded in 2025 to improve access to preventive, diagnostic, and ongoing care. These services support women across the lifespan and provide opportunities for earlier intervention, routine monitoring, and continuity of care close to home. Expanded women's services strengthen access to care for routine and specialized needs, supporting healthier outcomes and reducing delays in treatment.

### Why This Matters

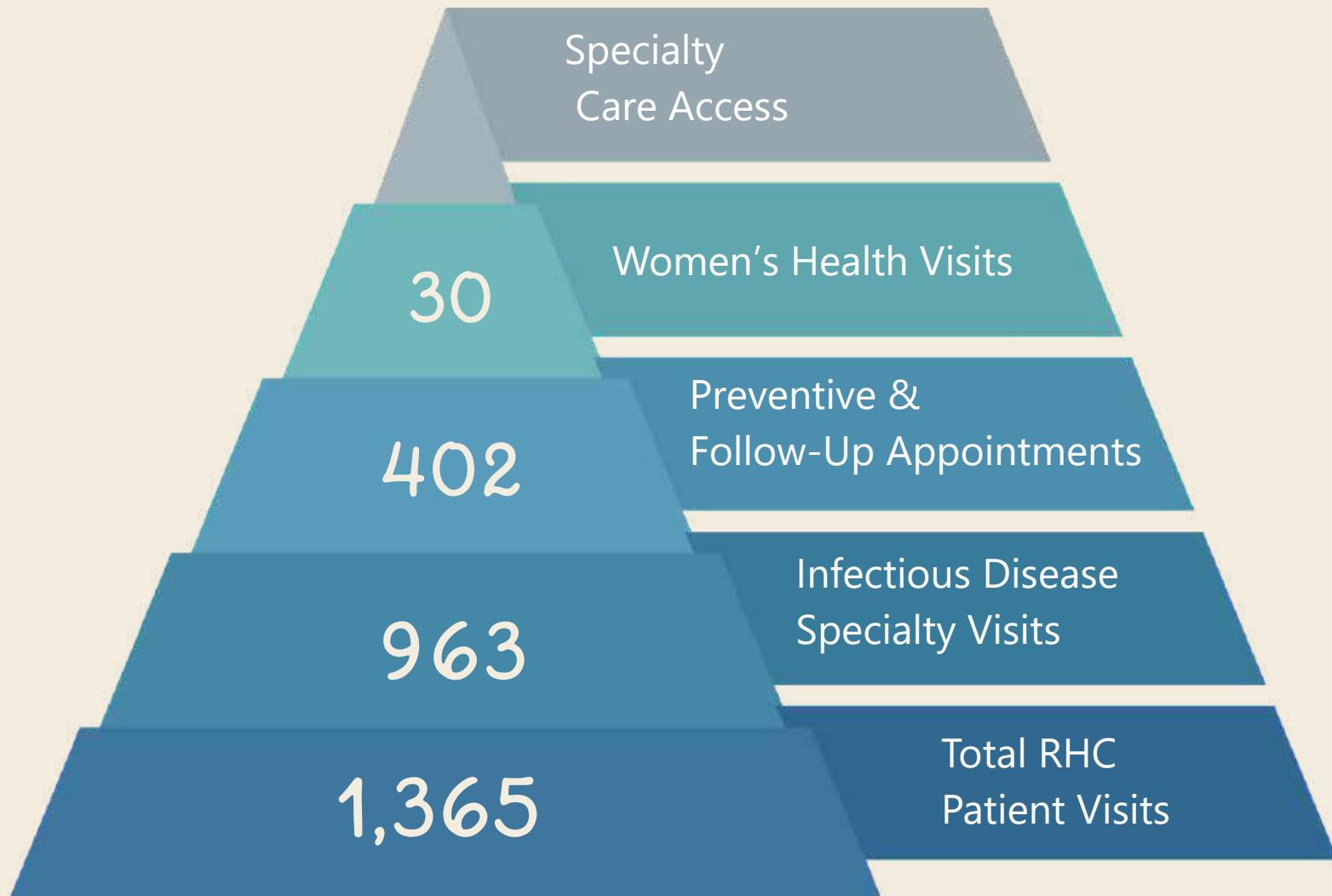
Expanding access to care improves health outcomes by making services easier to reach and easier to maintain over time. When care is available locally and aligned with community needs, individuals are more likely to seek care early, remain engaged in treatment, and manage health conditions effectively.

By strengthening RHC services, the health center helps ensure that access to care remains reliable, responsive, and rooted in the community.

**The following page highlights how RHC services expanded access to care in 2025.**

# Expanding Access To Care Through RHC Services

Local care, expanded services, stronger continuity



RHC services expand access by meeting community members where they are — building from broad access to specialized care.

# Building Strong Public Health Systems

## Strong systems make effective public health possible.

A strong public health system is built on reliable infrastructure, trained staff, and services that function consistently — even as community needs evolve. While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it forms the foundation that allows prevention, response, and care to happen effectively.

In 2025, the health center continued strengthening its public health system by investing in essential services, workforce training, and system capacity that support both daily operations and emergency readiness.

## Maintaining Essential Public Health Infrastructure

Vital records services are a core function of public health, providing accurate and timely documentation of births and deaths while supporting population health monitoring, planning, and access to services. In 2025, vital records operations continued to serve residents efficiently while supporting broader public health functions that rely on accurate data and records.

Reliable vital records systems ensure continuity, legal access, and data integrity — all critical components of a functioning public health system.

## *Strengthening Skills Through Training and Education*

In 2025, the health center continued to provide training programs that build community capacity and support safety across multiple settings. CPR and childcare training programs equip individuals and organizations with the skills needed to respond effectively in emergencies and maintain safe environments for children.

These trainings extend public health impact beyond the health center, empowering community members, childcare providers, and organizations to contribute to safer outcomes.

## Expanding Injury Prevention and Safety Initiatives

The health center also expanded its role in injury prevention by securing a new contract to provide child car seat safety services — marking the first time this program has been offered through the center. This initiative strengthens system-wide prevention efforts by supporting proper child passenger safety and reducing preventable injuries. By expanding into new prevention areas, the center enhances its ability to address emerging needs and protect community health proactively.

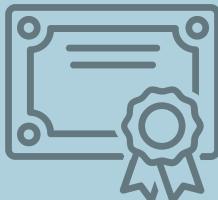
## Why This Matters

Strong public health systems ensure that services are reliable, staff are prepared, and communities can trust public health to function effectively during both routine operations and times of increased demand. Investments in infrastructure, training, and prevention capacity strengthen readiness and support long-term community resilience.

Building and maintaining these systems ensures public health can continue protecting and supporting the community — today and into the future.

# Building Strong Public Health Systems

Infrastructure, training, and readiness that support all public health services.



## Vital Records Services

Birth and death records maintained to support legal access, planning and population health monitoring.



## Public Health Data & Reporting

Systems supporting surveillance, planning, and response across programs.



## Operational Readiness

Systems maintained to ensure continuity during routine operations and emergencies.

## Workforce and Community Capacity



### New in 2025: Child Care Seat Safety Program

In 2025, the health center secured its first contract to provide child car seat safety services, expanding system capacity for injury prevention and community education.

# Emergency Response & Community Recovery

## When the Unexpected Happens

In 2025, the Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center played a critical role in emergency response and recovery during events that significantly disrupted community life and normal operations. When a tornado caused widespread damage in Delta, Missouri, health center staff shifted rapidly from routine public health services to emergency coordination and recovery support.

During this response, public health planning staff served as the lead volunteer coordination entity, helping organize response efforts, connect volunteers with community needs, and support ongoing recovery activities. This work extended beyond the immediate aftermath and required sustained coordination as the community transitioned from crisis response to long-term recovery.

Throughout the year, staff also responded to multiple product recalls and urgent public health concerns, requiring rapid assessment, coordination with state and federal partners, and timely communication to reduce risk and protect public safety.

Emergency response work often occurs without advance notice and outside of standard workflows. It requires flexibility, cross-training, and the ability to adapt quickly when communities need support most.

## Emergency Response at a Glance

### Major Weather Event Response

**Delta, Missouri** tornado response and recovery support

### Volunteer Coordination

Regional volunteer organization and deployment support

### Product Recalls Managed

Multiple statewide and national recalls requiring local response

### Public Health Role

Coordination • Communication • Recovery Support

### Why This Matters

Emergency preparedness and response are core public health responsibilities, even when they fall outside traditional program areas. When disasters strike or urgent health threats emerge, communities rely on public health to provide coordination, clarity, and stability.

By responding quickly and coordinating resources, public health reduces long-term health consequences and supports organized, effective recovery. Strong response capacity ensures communities are not navigating crises alone — and that recovery is informed, coordinated, and grounded in trust.

# Looking Forward

**Public health works best when it meets people where they are.**

Public health does not exist in a vacuum. It operates within communities shaped by lived experiences, differing perspectives, and real-world constraints. Over the past year, it has become increasingly clear that effective public health is not about telling people what to do — it is about listening, adapting, and offering support rooted in trust.

Looking ahead, Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center remains committed to meeting individuals and families where they are, without judgment and without assumption. Health decisions are personal, complex, and influenced by many factors. Our role is not to shame or pressure, but to provide clear, evidence-based information, accessible services, and steady support so people can make informed choices for themselves and their families.

As community needs continue to evolve, public health will continue to focus on prevention, preparedness, and partnership. This includes strengthening systems that protect health before problems arise, expanding access to services that support long-term well-being, and maintaining the readiness needed to respond when challenges emerge using the best available data and public health evidence, while respecting individual choice.

Progress in public health is often quiet and incremental. It is built through consistency, openness, and respect — over time. While uncertainty remains part of the landscape, so does opportunity: to rebuild trust, strengthen connections, and move forward together.

Moving forward means continuing the work — thoughtfully, consistently, and with purpose.

# Finances

## LIABILITIES

Expenses \$3,572,128.73

## EXPENSES & DEDUCTIONS

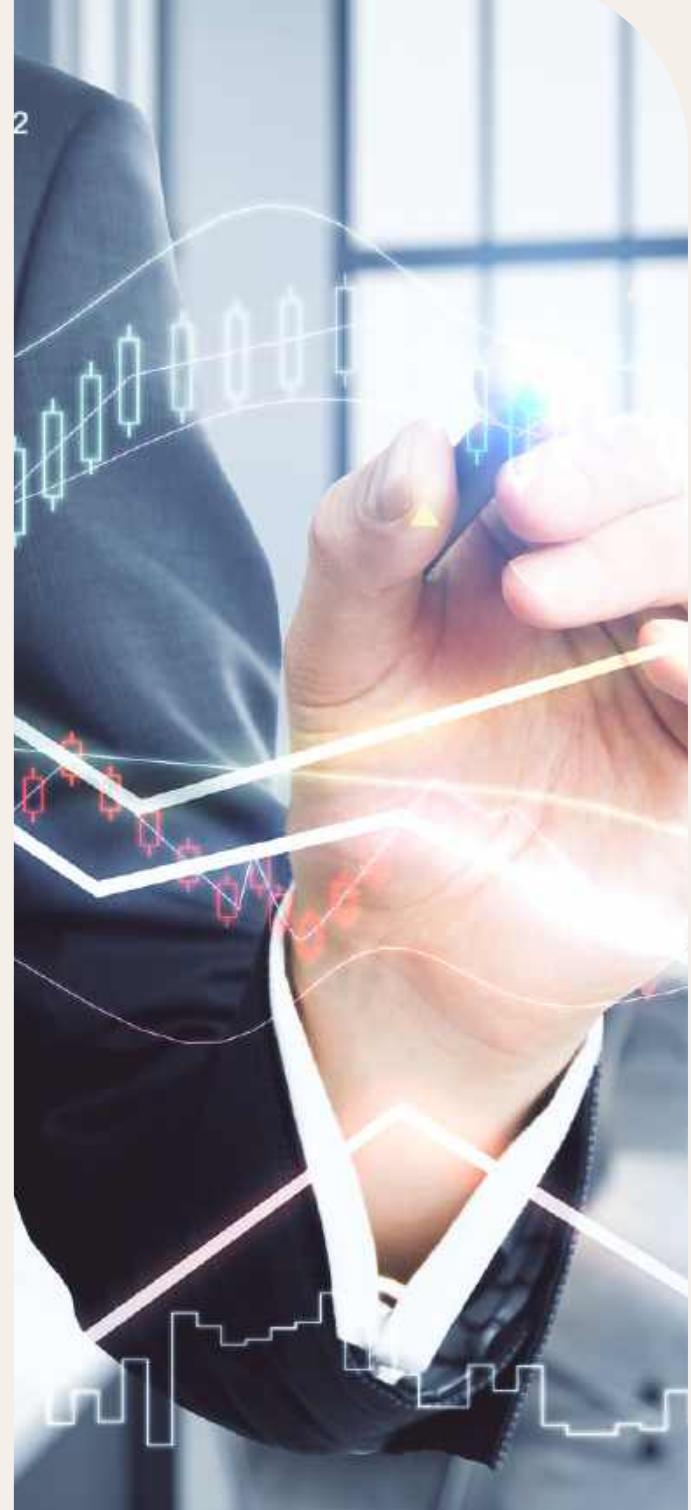
Salaries/Benefits	\$2,526,685.00
Admin Costs	\$684,328.97
Supplies & Equip	\$253,757.13
Grants/Contracts	\$107,357.63

REVENUES \$3,541,379.05

## Total Income

## INCOME & REVENUES

State, Local & Fed Contracts	\$1,533,426.45
Local Tax	\$1,481,346.55
Medicaid, Medicare, Private Ins	\$493,178.22
Fee for Service	\$33,427.83



## Funding Summary

43% of Revenue

State, Local &  
Federal  
Contracts

71% of Expenses

Salaries &  
Benefits

Reductions in state  
contract funding  
impacted the  
overall FY2025  
budget.

# We'd like to thank all our partners for their continued support.

## **Advisory, Review & Governance Bodies**

Policy guidance, oversight, and subject-matter expertise

- Aging Committee
- Child Care Consultant Advisory Committee
- Child Fatality Review Board
- Housing Committee

## **Maternal, Child & Family Health**

Early life, family stability, and protective services

- Breastfeeding Task Force SEMO
- Oral Health Coalition

## **Environmental Health, Safety & Infrastructure**

Built environment, environmental risk reduction, and transportation safety

- Environmental Public Health Specialist Association
- Environmental Task Force
- Missouri Department of Transportation (MO Center of Transportation)
- Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety

## **Infectious Disease & Clinical Collaboration**

Disease prevention, surveillance, and response coordination

- Infectious Disease Task Force
- Missouri Association of Local Public Health
- Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence



# We'd like to thank all our partners for their continued support.

## **Emergency Preparedness, Response & Homeland Security**

All-hazards preparedness, emergency coordination, and recovery

- Local Emergency Planning District
- Missouri Emergency Management Association
- NACCHO Medical Countermeasures Workgroup
- Region E Community Response Team
- Region E Multi-Agency Coordination Center
- Regional Homeland Security Committee
- Regional Planning Group SEMO
- Southeast Missouri Emergency Management Association

## **Community Coalitions & Recovery Support**

Community engagement, recovery, and resilience-building

- Gibson Recovery Center
- Healthy Communities Coalition
- PORCH (People Organized to Revitalize Community Healing)
- Project Hope



## **Food Systems & Community Nutrition**

Local food access and nutrition partnerships

- Southside Farms

# THANK YOU

Public health is never the work of one person or one center. It is made possible through steady leadership, shared values, and a willingness to support prevention – even when its impact is quiet.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Cape Girardeau County Board of Health for their continued guidance, trust, and commitment to community well-being. Your support allows public health to meet people where they are and respond effectively when it matters most.

*Cape Girardeau County Board of Health*

John Freeze, Chairperson

Georganne Syler, Vice Chairperson

Nancy Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Howard, Member

Gary Tinsley, Member

## Hours

Monday: 7:30am - 4:30pm

Tuesday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm

Late clinics available. Call for details.

*Download  
OUR APP*

## CONTACT US :



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[www.capecountyhealth.com](http://www.capecountyhealth.com)

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