

# Governance and Organizational Structures in Minnesota's Community Health Boards

## Governance Structures (January 2026)

Minnesota Statutes identify two governing structure options for counties and cities to legally organize themselves to do the work of public health: community health boards (under Minn. Stat. § 145A) or human services boards (under Minn. Stat. § 402). Multi-county community health boards (or CHBs) are formed through joint powers agreements, which allow them to work across geo-political boundaries. Currently, there are 53 CHBs in Minnesota. MDH also partners with Minnesota's eleven American Indian tribes to provide public health services.

### Single-County, City, or County/City CHBs (25 CHBs: 21 counties, 4 cities)

**County board assumes the duties of the CHB OR appoints a CHB. Organized under Minn. Stat. § 145A.**

- |                       |                 |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| ▪ Anoka               | ▪ City of Edina | ▪ City of Minneapolis | ▪ Sherburne       |
| ▪ Beltrami            | ▪ Freeborn      | ▪ Mower               | ▪ St. Paul-Ramsey |
| ▪ Benton              | ▪ Goodhue       | ▪ Nicollet            | ▪ Washington      |
| ▪ City of Bloomington | ▪ Hennepin      | ▪ Olmsted             | ▪ Winona          |
| ▪ Brown               | ▪ Isanti        | ▪ Pine                |                   |
| ▪ Carver              | ▪ Kanabec       | ▪ Rice                |                   |
| ▪ Chisago             | ▪ Mille Lacs    | ▪ City of Richfield   |                   |

### Multi-County (Joint Powers) Community Health Boards (17 CHBs: 54 counties)

**Joint powers agreement. County board appoints representatives to the CHB. Organized under Minn. Stat. § 145A.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| ▪ Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching   | ▪ Horizon ( <i>Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Pope, Douglas</i> )      | ▪ Partnership4Health ( <i>Becker, Clay</i> )   |
| ▪ Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis   | ▪ Kandiyohi-Renville  | ▪ Polk-Norman-Mahnomen   |
| ▪ Countryside ( <i>Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine</i> ) | ▪ Morrison-Todd-Wadena  | ▪ Prairie Lakes ( <i>Otter Tail, Wilkin</i> )  |
| ▪ Des Moines Valley ( <i>Cottonwood, Jackson</i> )                                  | ▪ Le Sueur-Waseca   | ▪ Quin County ( <i>Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau</i> )                         |
| ▪ Dodge-Steele  | ▪ Meeker-McLeod-Sibley  | ▪ Southwest Health and Human Services ( <i>Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock</i> ) |
| ▪ Fillmore-Houston  | ▪ North Country ( <i>Clearwater, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods</i> ) |  |

### Human Services Boards (11 CHBs: 12 counties)

**Organized under Minn. Stat. § 402. Assumes all duties of CHB.**

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|--------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| ▪ Blue Earth | ▪ Crow Wing        | ▪ Nobles  | ▪ Wabasha  |
| ▪ Cass       | ▪ Dakota           | ▪ Scott   | ▪ Watonwan |
|              | ▪ Faribault-Martin | ▪ Stearns | ▪ Wright   |

## Organizational Structures

Organizational structure is a term used to describe the way in which a local health department is organized within a city or county. Unlike governing structures, which are dictated by statute, organizational structures are locally determined. Public health can be a stand-alone department or organized with other departments or divisions, such as human services. Public health can also be a department or division within a hospital or health care organization.

### Single County/City Public Health Departments

- City of Bloomington
- Benton
- Brown
- City of Edina
- Freeborn
- Hennepin
- Kanabec
- City of Minneapolis
- Rice
- City of Richfield
- St. Paul-Ramsey
- Washington

### Single County Health and Human Services Agencies

- Anoka
- Beltrami
- Blue Earth
- Carver
- Cass
- Chisago
- Crow Wing
- Dakota
- Goodhue
- Isanti
- Mille Lacs
- Mower
- Nicollet
- Nobles
- Olmsted
- Pine
- Scott
- Sherburne
- Stearns
- Wabasha
- Watonwan
- Winona
- Wright

### Single County Public Health Departments (within in a multi-county CHB)

- Clay
- Clearwater
- Dodge
- Fillmore
- Kittson
- Le Sueur
- Otter Tail
- Polk
- Renville
- Steele
- Wadena
- Waseca

### Multi-County Public Health Departments

- Countryside (Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift, Yellow Medicine)
- Horizon (Grant, Stevens, Traverse, Pope, Douglas)
- Norman-Mahnomen
- Pennington and Red Lake County
- Public Health & Home Care

### Single County Health and Human Services Agencies (within a multi-county CHB)

- Aitkin
- Becker
- Carlton
- Cook
- Houston
- Itasca
- Kandiyohi
- Koochiching
- Lake
- McLeod
- Meeker
- Morrison
- St. Louis
- Sibley
- Todd
- Wilkin

### Multi-County Health and Human Services Agency

- Faribault-Martin
- Southwest HHS (*Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock*)
- Des Moines Valley (*Cottonwood, Jackson*)

### Hospital/Health Care Organization Contract for Public Health Activities

- Hubbard
- Lake of the Woods
- Marshall
- Roseau