

What Your Levy Buy\$

OUR VISION

Healthier communities, stronger together.

OUR MISSION

Working together to promote, protect, and achieve healthier communities and reduce health inequities through high quality public health programs and services.

OUR MANDATE

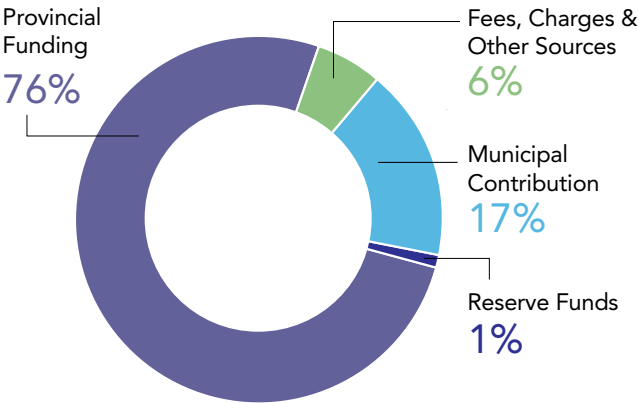
The mandate of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) is legislated under the provincial Health Protection and Promotion Act. The primary focus of public health is the health and well-being of the whole population through the promotion and protection of health and the prevention of illness. Minimum requirements for the delivery of public health programming are set out in the Ontario Public Health Standards.

OUR 2025 BUDGET

The consolidated budget for public health services provided by the Health Unit within the District of Thunder Bay totals approximately \$22.47M. Of this total, 76% is funded by the Province of Ontario, approximately 17% or \$3.76M is funded through the municipal levy, 6% is derived from fees, charges, and other sources, and 1% is from reserve funds.

For the 2025 budget, the Board of Health approved a 10% increase to the Municipal Levy with 5% being funded through internal reserve funds.

2025 REVENUE SOURCES



2025 EXPENDITURES

Expenditures have increased as a result of several large increases that TBDHU has been able to absorb through in-year variance and one-time funding in previous years. These include, but are not limited to, wages and benefits, telecommunications, computer software and hardware, and insurance. Increases in the 2025 budget were partially offset by reduced staffing levels.

In 2025, each municipal taxpayer in the district will contribute \$31.98 towards the total cost of the services listed below.

Services Provided	(000s)
Infectious Disease	\$ 7,086
Healthy Growth and Development	\$ 5,646
Chronic Disease and Injury	\$ 5,545
Environmental Health	\$ 2,349
Corporate	\$ 1,594
Land Development	\$ 233
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 16
Total Consolidated Budget	\$ 22,469
Total Municipal Contribution	\$ 3,759
Per Capita Municipal Contribution	\$ 31.98

The remaining document contains an overview of public health services.

We work to promote, protect, and achieve healthier communities and reduce health inequities across the population in the District of Thunder Bay through the following foundational and program areas:

HEALTHY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Oral health promotion, education, and clinical preventive services for children from birth to age 17. Includes school-based dental screening and surveillance activities to help facilitate access to the Healthy Smiles Ontario Program for eligible children with urgent dental needs.
- Healthy Babies Healthy Children programming delivered through home visiting, virtually, or by phone to optimize healthy child development and reduce health inequities for pregnant individuals and families with children from birth to age six.
- Lactation services provided in homes, in the community, or the TBDHU Lactation Clinic to support individuals and families.



- Family health programming to provide education programs and support to parents before, during, and after pregnancy to help them raise healthy, happy, and resilient children in safe environments.

INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Case and contact management for Diseases of Public Health Significance including the detection and management of respiratory and gastrointestinal outbreaks. Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) inspections, education, support, and follow-up on IPAC concerns and lapses within licensed childcare and personal service settings.
- Support, education, delivery, and observation of anti-Tuberculosis treatment. Intake and follow-up of all Immigration Medical Surveillance clients referred by Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada.
- Risk assessment and response for all potential rabies exposures, including distribution of post-exposure vaccinations if required.
- Testing, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted and blood borne infections while promoting healthy sexuality and safer sexual practices for priority populations. Includes education and access to contraception options.
- Provision of mobile public health services for priority populations including those who are homeless, under-housed, or using substances. Services include infectious disease testing and management, immunization, health screening, and harm reduction services.

- Harm reduction programming to reduce the potential harms associated with substance use including the provision of harm reduction supplies and naloxone to prevent opioid overdoses and mitigate related risks. Community-based opioid response activities including surveillance to monitor trends in opioid use and track emerging risks, and communication to the public, health system, and community partners to ensure a coordinated and informed response.
- Immunization services and clinics, provision of specialized services to improve vaccine access, and distribution of publicly funded vaccines to health care providers.



- Ongoing review and maintenance of immunization records for school pupils and children in childcare.
- Education and promotion of vaccine safety and efficacy to improve vaccine confidence. Includes partner engagement to improve vaccine uptake and respond to emerging community vaccination needs.

CHRONIC DISEASE, SUBSTANCE USE, AND INJURY PREVENTION

- Chronic disease prevention programming focused on schools, worksites, and community partners to build supportive environments and influence policies to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, healthy growth and development, and UV protection.
- Food literacy programs for school-age children to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, and food sovereignty initiatives to support First Nations' right to self-determination and culturally appropriate food.
- Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, including oral health promotion, education, clinical preventive services, and facilitation of access to treatment services such as restorative dentistry, specialist services, and dentures. Eligible seniors are assisted with program application and navigation as required.
- Injury prevention and substance use programming in collaboration with community partners to influence healthy policies and create supportive environments. Includes programs that address alcohol and other substance use issues, road and off-road vehicle safety, prevention of concussions and falls, and mental health promotion.
- Tobacco, vapour, and smoke programming in collaboration with community partners to provide prevention, education, and training through youth engagement, cessation, enforcement, and policy development.
- School health programming focused on engaging students, parents, teachers, school boards, and community partners to create supportive school climates and improve student health and well-being. School boards are supported to develop policies and deliver health programming on topics including nutrition, physical activity, personal safety and injury prevention, substance use prevention, healthy growth and development, mental health, and violence and bullying prevention.





ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- Education to ensure safe food handling, inspections of food premises, and investigations into food-borne illnesses.
- Monitoring public and private water sources and ensuring water meets high standards for both drinking and recreational use.
- Health hazard risk assessment, prevention, and management to inspect facilities and respond to reports of health hazards in the built and natural environment.
- Vector borne disease surveillance programming to assess the risk of mosquito-borne infections (i.e. West Nile virus) and tick-borne diseases (i.e Lyme disease).

LAND DEVELOPMENT

- Review, inspection, and approval of all properties that are developed or planned to be serviced with in-ground sewage treatment systems. These services are self-funded through generated revenue.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Consistent and effective responses to public health emergencies and incidents with significant health impacts, supported by regular training, exercises, and a 24/7 on-call system for managing emergencies, health hazards, and infectious disease outbreaks.

FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORTS

- Population health assessment includes measurement, monitoring, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination of population health data to inform the development of programs and services. Includes monitoring and communication of findings of surveillance activities, and epidemiological analysis of infectious disease trends and priority populations to key partners.
- Embedding health equity approaches across all programs and services with the goal of decreasing health inequities across the District of Thunder Bay. Includes respectful engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations to strengthen public health services.
- Research, planning, evaluation, performance measurement, and quality improvement supports and approaches for all programs and services.
- Effective, accessible, and inclusive communication practices to support all programs and services. Monitoring and improvement processes to support excellent client service standards. Ongoing accountability reporting on public health programs and services.

CORPORATE EXPENDITURES

- Costs for the governance of the Health Unit, facility maintenance, computer technology, and telecommunications for all Health Unit sites.