BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

FY 2025–2026 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 was a year of sustained service delivery, leadership transition, and forward planning. Burke County Public Health continued protecting residents through clinical care, nutrition services, environmental health, communicable disease control, emergency preparedness, health education, and community partnerships while strengthening the systems needed for accountable, efficient, and responsive public health operations.

1,455	11,096	2,322	659
Immunizations	**Laboratory tests**	**Average monthly WIC participation**	**Food & lodging inspections**

OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT

- **Essential services:** Programs delivered primary and maternal care, family planning, child health, immunizations, communicable disease services, laboratory testing, WIC, Environmental Health, preparedness, and health education—with emphasis on residents facing barriers to care.
- **Community investment:** WIC participants redeemed more than $1.56 million in food benefits. Additional investments included health fairs, school-based education, Safe Kids programming, ice storm preparation, measles response and education, mobile women's health services, and initiatives addressing food insecurity, maternal and child health, and access to care.
- **Priority alignment:** The completed Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan provide a data-informed foundation for aligning services and partnerships with Commissioner and community-identified health priorities.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

BCPH managed a **$6.05 million gross expenditure budget**, supported by approximately **$2.68 million in anticipated program revenue**, resulting in a net budget of approximately **$3.37 million**. At reporting, 91.7% of projected revenue had been received, 92.6% of the expenditure budget utilized, and 93.3% of the net budget expended. Funding included state and federal appropriations, grants, Medicaid and insurance reimbursement, fees, clinical revenue, and County investment.

- **Efficiency investments:** Departmental audits, Lean training, strengthened onboarding, technology modernization, clinical workflow and revenue-cycle review, shared training, mutual aid, contracted clinical support, and an Environmental Health Kaizen event improved capacity and reduced duplication.

LEADERSHIP, WORKFORCE, AND FUTURE DIRECTION

Ashley Jarrett, DNP, RN, assumed the role of Interim Health Director, providing continuity while Burke County plans for permanent leadership. Amid a 17% turnover rate, five retirements, and four new hires, the department continued investing in retention, succession planning, frontline leadership, Lean training, professional credentials, and continuous quality improvement.

- **Facilities:** Advance the $3.2 million modernization of Public Health and Social Services facilities, including new or renovated clinical and administrative space that improves accessibility, privacy, efficiency, and the resident experience.
- **Strategic realignment:** Re-evaluate and update the FY 2024–2028 Strategic Plan to reflect changes in leadership, organizational capacity, County direction, Commissioner priorities, and community health needs, with revised goals, investments, and performance measures.
- **Sustainable services:** Strengthen workforce stability, clinical workflows, revenue-cycle performance, technology, and data use while evaluating Child Health, school nursing, mobile health, food access, and other service models for impact, funding, and long-term sustainability.

BCPH enters FY 2026–2027 committed to responsible stewardship, efficient operations, a supported workforce, accessible services, and measurable alignment with Burke County priorities.