

**RICHMOND CITY  
HEALTH DISTRICT  
2016 ANNUAL REPORT**



*Working together for a healthier Richmond*



## Richmond City Health District Annual Report

We are pleased to present our 2016 Annual Report to share some highlights of what has been an exciting year of new beginnings and opportunities to serve the City of Richmond. Dr. Danny Avula became the new Health Director in March 2016.

We continued to prioritize collaboration and community partnership. We also strengthened our capacity to seek grant funding to address issues relevant to the health of the population. The Richmond City Health District (RCHD) is one of the 35 public health agencies operating in the Commonwealth of Virginia under direction of the Virginia Department of Health. RCHD provides a comprehensive set of public health programs and services for the people who live, work, and play in the City of Richmond.

### **RICHMOND CITY HEALTH DISTRICT SERVICES:**

#### **Clinical Services/Navigation/Case Management**

- Family Planning
- Centering Pregnancy Program
- Maternal Child Health Program
- WIC—Women’s, Infants & Children Supplemental Nutrition Program
- Community Resource Centers
- Long-term care Pre-assessment screening
- Newcomer Refugee Program
- Immunization Program

#### **Communicable Disease Prevention:**

- Tuberculosis Program
- Sexually Transmitted Infection Program Epidemiology Division

#### **Community Health & Safety:**

- Adolescent Health Program
- Youth Violence Prevention Health Equity
- Chronic Disease Prevention Program
- School Health Initiative
- Healthy Corner-store Initiative
- Northside Strong
- Richmond Family & Fatherhood Initiative
- Lead-Safe & Healthy Homes Initiative
- Environmental Health/Food Safety
- Public Health Preparedness
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Health Promotion & Public Information

#### **Vital Records**

- Birth and Death Certificates

## NEW HEALTH DIRECTOR

**Danny TK Avula, MD, MPH**  
*Richmond City Health District Director*

We welcome Dr. Danny Avula as the new Health Director for the City of Richmond. Dr. Avula has served as the Deputy Director for the Richmond City Health District since 2009.

He is a board-certified pediatrician and preventive medicine physician and continues to practice clinically as a pediatric hospitalist. He is an Affiliate Faculty member at VCU, where he regularly serves as an advisor and preceptor to graduate and medical students.

At home, Danny loves to spend time with his wife and four kids, and he is deeply committed to community development efforts in the Church Hill neighborhood where he has lived for over a decade.

He is respected and recognized locally and nationally for his leadership and innovation, and has won numerous awards for his commitment to improving Richmond's health.



*"Making progress toward health equity means working together across barriers and sectors to help each other thrive. I am committed to serving Richmond through public health innovation, strong partnerships, and programs and policies that help residents find their voices and strengths. We are all in this together, and we have what it takes to build a culture of health for all Richmonders." Dr. Danny TK Avula*

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITION



### **Dr. Donald Stern, MD, MPH retires**

Dr. Stern, Director of the Richmond City Health District since December 2006, retired in March 2016, completing a 35-year career with the Virginia Department of Health. He provided service in numerous roles, including acting State Health Commissioner from 1994-1995. He also served as Health Director for Rappahannock Area Health District; City of Roanoke; and Danville/Pittsylvania County Health District

*Dr. Stern, your service to the City of Richmond is greatly appreciated. [Thank you and farewell.](#)*



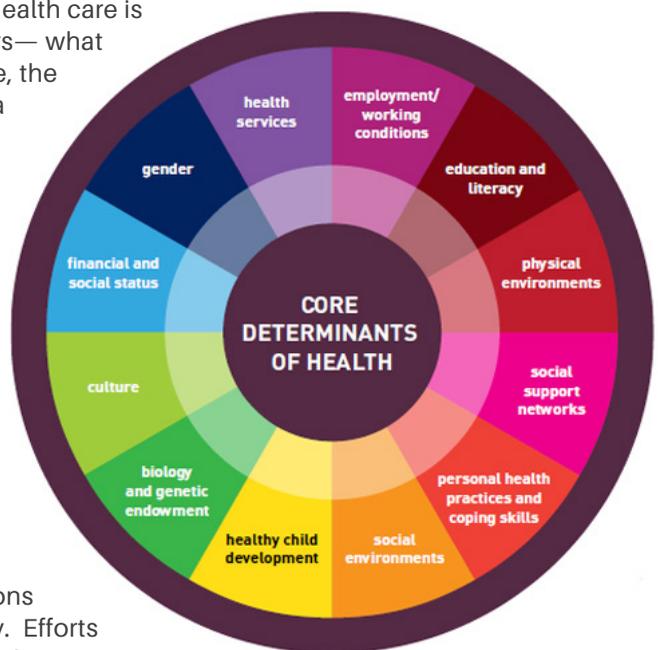
**OUR VISION:** Working together for a healthier Richmond

**OUR MISSION:** To promote healthy living, protect the environment, prevent disease and prepare the community for disasters

## VISION FOR A HEALTHIER RICHMOND

When we think of improving health, our minds are trained to think about things like access to doctors, or affordability of medications. But whether or not someone receives quality health care is only one part of the story. Health behaviors— what we eat and drink, whether or not we smoke, the amount of physical activity we get— play a more important role in our health status. But even more important than both of those categories are social factors, like the neighborhoods we live in, our family support systems, education and income levels; all of these play a tremendous role in determining our health outcomes.

As the field of Public Health grows in its understanding of what factors impact the health of populations, our efforts are becoming increasingly focused on addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes. Often, this means working to understand and change the policies and practices that have led to certain populations having less of an opportunity to be healthy. Efforts like increasing access to nutritious foods in low-income communities, or identifying the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and helping build resilience through supporting healthy relationships, have become the staples of our work.



# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY



The Richmond City Health District is committed to collaborating with community members, service providers, non-profit organizations, and faith communities to realize the strengths of Richmond's neighborhoods and improve health outcomes. RCHD convenes partners and residents in various communities across the city to help support resident-led strategies to improve health. In the Northside, RCHD is supporting work to improve access to primary care and community services, increase fitness and nutritious food access, and promote neighborhood well-being through the Northside Strong collaborative. In the East End, RCHD helps lead components of Peter Paul Development Center's Richmond Promise Neighborhood Community Action Network (RPCAN), a collective impact effort for service providers and residents to work together to improve health for neighborhoods throughout the 7th District.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### New Director of Health Equity selected for Health and Equity Fellowship

Richmond Health District's new Director of Health Equity, Patricia Mills, was selected to participate in the inaugural class of Richmond Memorial Health Foundation's (RMHF) Equity and Health Fellowship.



Patricia Mills, RCHD Director of Health Equity

Patricia is one of 18 fellows selected from a pool of 82 applicants. As part of RMHF's commitment to fostering an equitable and healthy Richmond region, the foundation is shifting its focus to address the socioeconomic and structural conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes. To develop this work in an inclusive way, RMHF will look to its Equity and Health Fellows to learn together, and to use their collective experience and knowledge to help shape the foundation's approach to achieve equity and health throughout the region.

### Richmond City selected for Invest Health Initiative

The City of Richmond is one of 50 midsized communities across the country selected to participate in the Invest Health Initiative. Sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Reinvestment Fund, each Invest Health city receives \$60,000 funding and valuable technical assistance to maximize the impact of collaborations and develop a detailed strategic investment plan to improve local health outcomes and health equity. Richmond was selected based on the strength of its team and its areas of focus: affordable housing, food access and employment via social enterprise.

Richmond's Invest Health team members are: Dr. Danny Avula, *RCHD*; Dr. Risha Berry, *City of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building*; Dr. Mark Constantine, *President & CEO of Richmond Memorial Health Foundation*; Sheryl Garland, *Vice President, Health Policy & Community Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System*; and T.K. Somanath, *CEO, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority*.



# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY



RCHD successfully acquired multiple grant awards. Various government agencies and foundations have recognized the strength and promise of RCHD's programs and awarded us grant funding to grow our work in 2016. Through these opportunities, we are deepening our partnerships and better serving communities across the city.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### RCHD is awarded the Share Our Strength Grant

The Share Our Strength Campaign awarded a \$1,000 grant to RCHD to continue the "Cooking Matters at the Store" Initiative. These grant funds are intended to help us reach a minimum of 100 participants before the end of 2017. The grocery store tours for low-income residents teach budget-smart shopping for preparing healthy meals at home.

[www.nokidhungry.org](http://www.nokidhungry.org)

### RCHD finalist in Aetna's Healthiest Cities Challenge

In September 2016, RCHD participated with the national media and social media campaign kickoff to announce grant finalists and promote the Healthiest Cities Challenge.

RCHD is one of the 50 finalists with an opportunity for a share of the \$1.5 million in prizes to be awarded to finalists that are able over the course of several years, to show measurable change and improvement of health in the community. The Challenge is a partnership between the Aetna Foundation, the American Public Health Association and the National Association of

County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

[news.aetna.com/2016/04/healthiest-cities-and-counties-challenge-could-change-community-health](http://news.aetna.com/2016/04/healthiest-cities-and-counties-challenge-could-change-community-health)

### Youth Violence Prevention Program

RCHD is the recipient of a CDC-funded Youth Violence Prevention Training and Technical Assistance Grant from the American Institute for Research (AIR). RCHD is receiving training and technical assistance over four years to develop a community-wide approach to prevent youth violence. To develop a strategic plan and develop the resources through partnership in the city, RCHD has partnered with the Juvenile Justice Collaborative (JJC) and its subgroup the Juvenile Justice Prevention Workgroup (JJYVPW) to establish a comprehensive plan to address this issue.

The Youth Violence Prevention Program aims to develop a community-wide approach to preventing youth violence using the public health model of prevention and the collective impact approach to community organization. Youth violence represents a serious public health problem for all communities. Nationally, homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people 15-24 years of age.

### Grant award to assist with RCHD accreditation

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the CDC Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support selected RCHD as a 2016-2017 Local Health Department Accreditation Support Initiative awardee. RCHD is among 29 national awardees chosen in a highly competitive selection process. The \$15,000 award will contribute toward cost associated with a public health accreditation process that RCHD plans to conduct in 2017-2018.

[www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation](http://www.cdc.gov/stltpublichealth/accreditation)



# PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY



## ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS

## HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

### Richmond Healthy Corner Store Initiative (RHCSI)

RHCSI recruited 8 new stores into the program and provided approximately 21,548 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables to families living in USDA designated food desert neighborhoods. Corner Store launch events included free food samples, healthy recipes and nutrition education. RHCSI funding continued in 2016 through VDH's 1305 Program.

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/chronic-disease](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/chronic-disease)

### Improving food access in the community

In addition, the Chronic Disease Program was awarded a \$30,000 Agriculture, Forestry, Industries and Development grant from the Governor's office to conduct a food access needs assessment for the City of Richmond.

RHCSI was also a partner with the opening of a newly renovated "Community Kitchen" located within the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at 3701 R' Street. For RCHD, the goal for the community kitchen is to provide residents access to healthy foods, knowledge and skills to change and improve eating behaviors and impact long-term health outcomes.



### New Food Access & Health Equity Taskforce Strategy

RCHD is leading a new focus strategy for this group comprised of various organizations, non-profits, health advocates, and community gardening stakeholders. We are also creating three working groups:

1. Community Gardens/ Nutrition Education & Urban Agriculture
2. Urban Agriculture & Health Retail Policy Change
3. Community Engagement

The Richmond Health District has volunteered to convene each of these groups and facilitate a process to create goals, objectives and outcomes.

### School Health Programs

RCHD received a \$25,000 Sustainability Preventive Health and Health Services block grant from VDH to continue our work in preventing childhood obesity. We continued our collaboration with the Greater Richmond Coalition for Healthy Kids, Fit4Kids, the YMCA and VCU, to implement innovative childhood obesity strategies that create supportive nutrition and physical activity environments for youth.

Project partners provided additional Smarter Lunchrooms training in all 42 RPS schools to equip school nutrition staff with strategies and tools to promote healthier cafeteria items and guide student consumption of healthier foods. "Water Week" activities took place at 25 elementary schools where we installed hydration stations to increase student consumption of pure water vs. sugary drinks.

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/school-health](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/school-health)

### Promoting an Active & Fit Community

The RCHD Chronic Disease Prevention Program continued its partnership with Richmond Sports Backers to conduct the Fitness Warriors Program which offers free fitness classes at locations all over the Richmond community through the Active RVA Fitness Movement.

[www.sportsbackers.org/program/active-rva](http://www.sportsbackers.org/program/active-rva)

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Resource Mothers Program

Resource Mothers provides services to first-time pregnant teens to ensure healthy births. The program received additional funding of \$178,290 for the Promising Practice Research Project.

1 1 7	2 2
pregnant teens served	girls graduated



5 5
new participants enrolled

1 2 0
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free safety seats provided through Resource Mothers for the Safety Seat Distribution and Education Program conducted by RCHD

### RCHD Community Resource Centers

Resource Centers are an interagency partnership that increases access to basic health services and links community residents to a medical home. They are operated in collaboration with the Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority (RRHA) and other partners.

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/resource-centers](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/resource-centers)

3, 2 4 7	2 2
Resource Center patient visits	referrals made to social and community services

### Zika Virus Response

Zika virus emerged as a major public health threat in 2016. With a goal of protecting the public's health, RCHD worked closely with VDH and City officials to implement risk reduction measures that included reduction of local mosquito populations.

### Lead-Safe & Healthy Homes Initiative (LSHHI)

Focuses on childhood lead-poisoning prevention and empowering city residents and the community to properly maintain a healthy and safe living environment through education and intervention. This includes home assessments and education to improve living conditions for asthmatic children. LSHHI also conducted pediatric physician outreach to facilitate collaborative lead-poisoning screening efforts in concert with more effective management of childhood lead-poisoning cases.

[www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/healthy-homes](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/healthy-homes)

1 7 6	2 2
RRHA new residents presentations with 65% to clients with asthmatic children	vacant property inspections as a strategy to identify lead-hazard rental

### Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Division is committed to protecting the health of the public and enhancing quality of life by assessing, correcting and preventing many factors in the environment that can adversely affect the health of individuals and our community. Responsibility of this Division includes enforcement of public health protection regulation; food safety education and promotion; investigation of food-borne illnesses; inspection and monitoring environmental conditions, and health-hazard investigation.

Environmental Health Specialists inspect all city food establishments and food service vendors. They provide training for food handlers by conducting Foodservice Worker Classes and ServSafe Managers certification classes. This Division also inspects the local dairy plant under federal guidelines and State statutory authority.

In addition, Environmental Health Specialists inspect hotels, public swimming pools and marinas; conduct

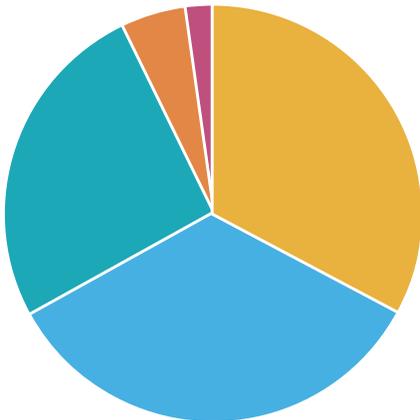
### Fiscal Year 2016 Service Numbers

Number of restaurant inspections	1,907
Total number of food service inspections	5,255
New food permits issued	183
Animal bite/rabies investigation	248
Hotel/motel inspections	90
Environmental complaint inspections	165
Food safety training classes conducted	277
Food handlers trained	501
Swimming pool inspections	165

animal bite/rabies investigations. They also investigate complaints concerning environmental hazards including complaints of rodent and pest infestation.

# FUNDING & OPERATIONS

## RCHD FUNDING

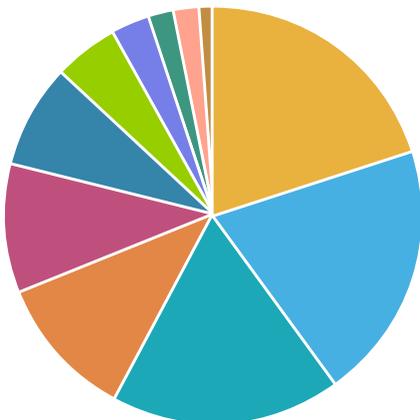


The Richmond City Health District was budgeted at \$11,682,916 for fiscal year 2016.

### FUNDING SOURCES

City funds	33%
State funds	34%
Federal grants	26%
Local grants	5%
Revenue	2%

## RCHD EXPENDITURES



### EXPENDITURES

Administration	20%
Reproductive Health	20%
Communicable Disease	18%
Programs	11%
WIC	10%
Environmental Health	8%
Teen Pregnancy	5%
Lead-Safe/Healthy Homes	3%
Chronic Disease Prevention	2%
Family & Fatherhood Initiative	2%
Emergency Preparedness	1%

