



Local Public Health Funding

Current Context for Systems Change

-Rural Perspective-

Lisa Macon Harrison, MPH

THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH.

whatispublichealth.org



► Public health works every day to promote and protect health, and prevent disease. Overall, Local Health Departments are the only community entities concerned with protecting the health of the entire community... advocating for and promoting health in its broadest form.





Piecing it together well relies on a strong foundation

- ▶ Funding for public health today is cobbled together at federal, state and local levels with a diverse and ephemeral stream of program-oriented dollars attached to expectations and deliverables that form, in one way of looking at it, a game of Jenga.

NC has great diversity...including in its ability to fund public services at the local level



Mandated Services

Provide:	Provide/contract/certify:
Food, lodging & institutional sanitation	Adult Health / Primary Care / Maternal Health / Child Health
Individual on-site water supply	Care management
Sanitary sewage collection, treatment & disposal	Dental public health
Communicable disease control	HIV / STD
Vital records registration	WIC (Women, Infants & Children)
Health Education & Promotion	Family planning
(Community Health Assessment)	Public health laboratory
	Preparedness and Response

State Funding and Actual Cost for Mandated Services

Communicable Disease

State Funding Provided:	\$4,147 annually	\$1,056,141 (During COVID)
Actual Program Cost :	\$378,563 pre-COVID	\$1,915,000 (During COVID)

Environmental Health

State Funding Provided:	\$15,893 annually
Actual Program Cost	\$748,000

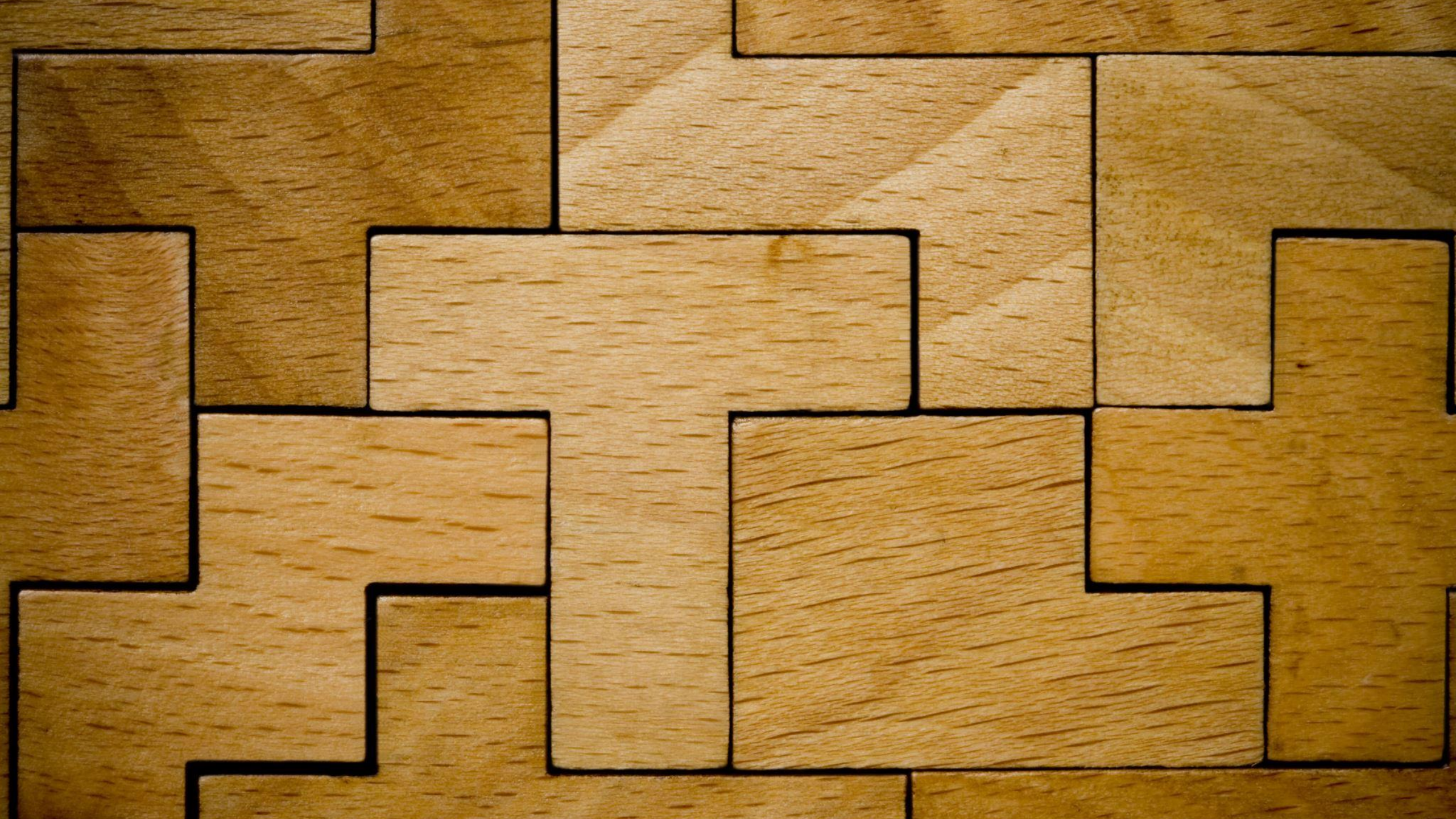
Vital Records

State Funding Provided:	\$0 annually
Actual Program Cost	\$24,017

Example taken from **ONE** district health department in a rural area with little local funding...



Visual Interpretation of LHD Budgets in NC



NC Ranks #44 out of the 50 states in public health per capita state spending

North Carolina has consistently fallen in the bottom portion of the rankings that list per capita funding for public health by state. The 2016 TFAH report puts **NC at # 44 out of 50** states for state public health funding levels **which reflects a \$14.30 investment per person.**

The median for comparison is \$35.77 in South Dakota ranked on the list at #25. Other southeastern states include Georgia (#39), Louisiana (#38), Florida (#37) and South Carolina (#36).

-Trust for America's Health

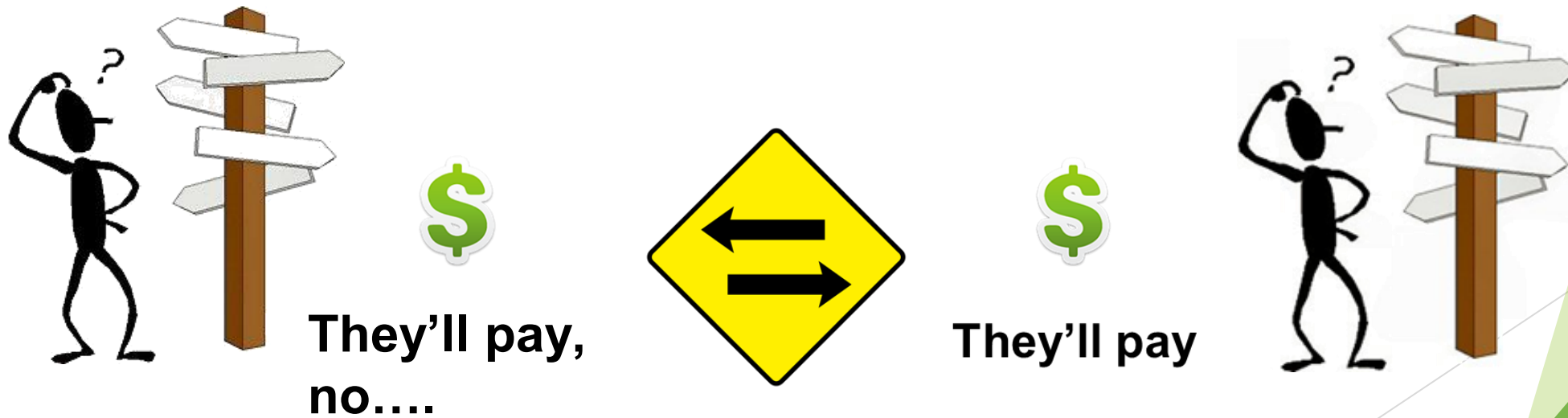
The Impact of Chronic Underfunding on America's Public Health System:

Trends, Risks, and Recommendations, 2021



Today, the demands on the public health system are greater than ever.

Each level of government has different but important responsibilities for protecting the public's health. Unpredictable and steadily decreasing federal and state funds (prior to COVID-19) put our local public health system at risk.



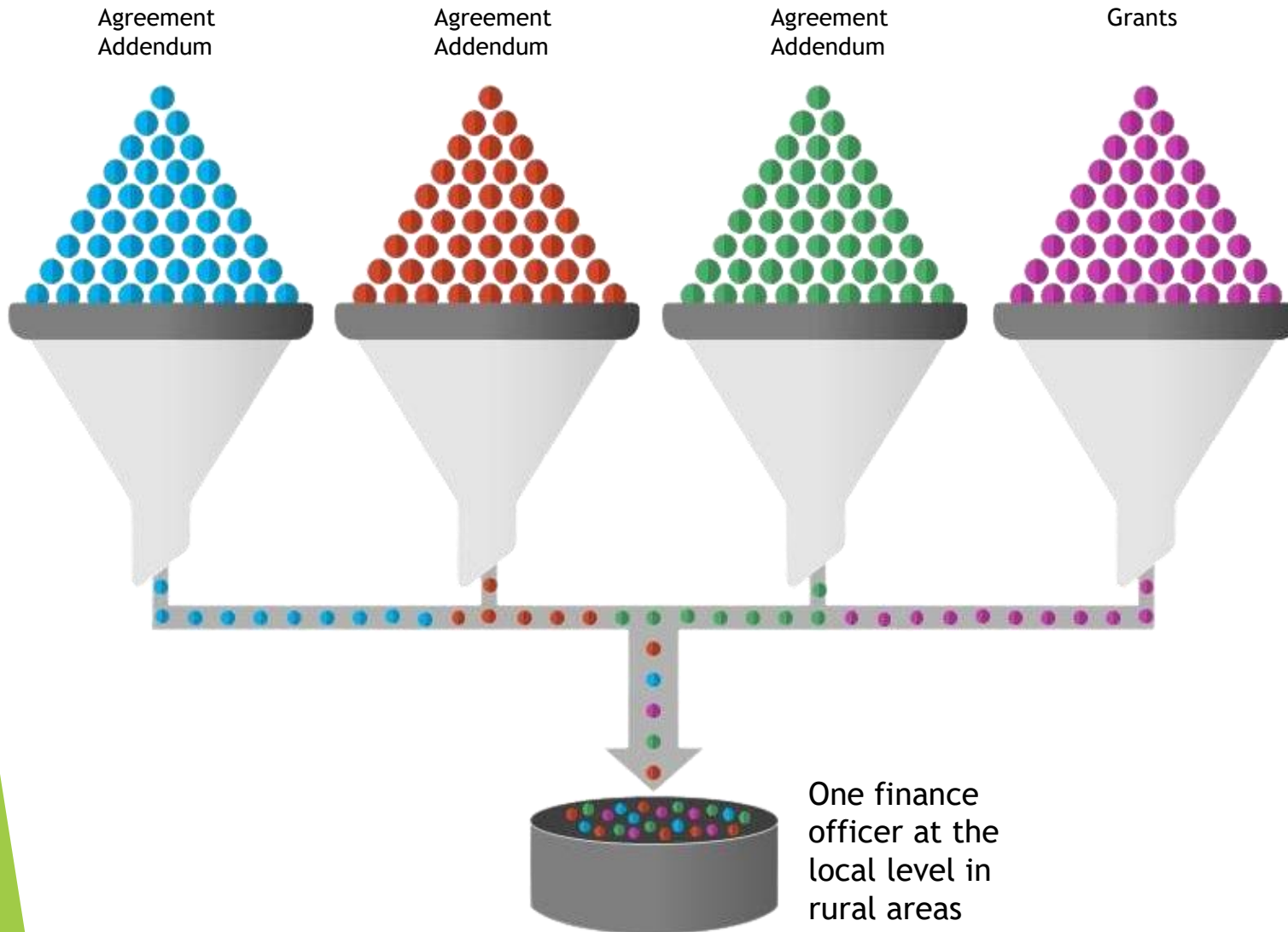
Local Public Health Funding VARIES

Local	State	Federal	Other / Grants
Typically covers less than 50% of operating budget in most counties	22% of LHD operating budget comes from state/federal combined		Fees and 'Other' & 'Grants' fund the remaining balance of a local health department budget
Local funding ranges from \$10,000 in Camden County to ~\$80,000,000 in Mecklenburg	States take CDC funds and make them state program dollars as pass-through and add their own accountability/deliverable/audit layers	CDC is the main source of public health program funding to states	LHDs must fill the gaps - and in rural, poor areas grant writing is essential - not extra - to keep staff and programs and address health priorities

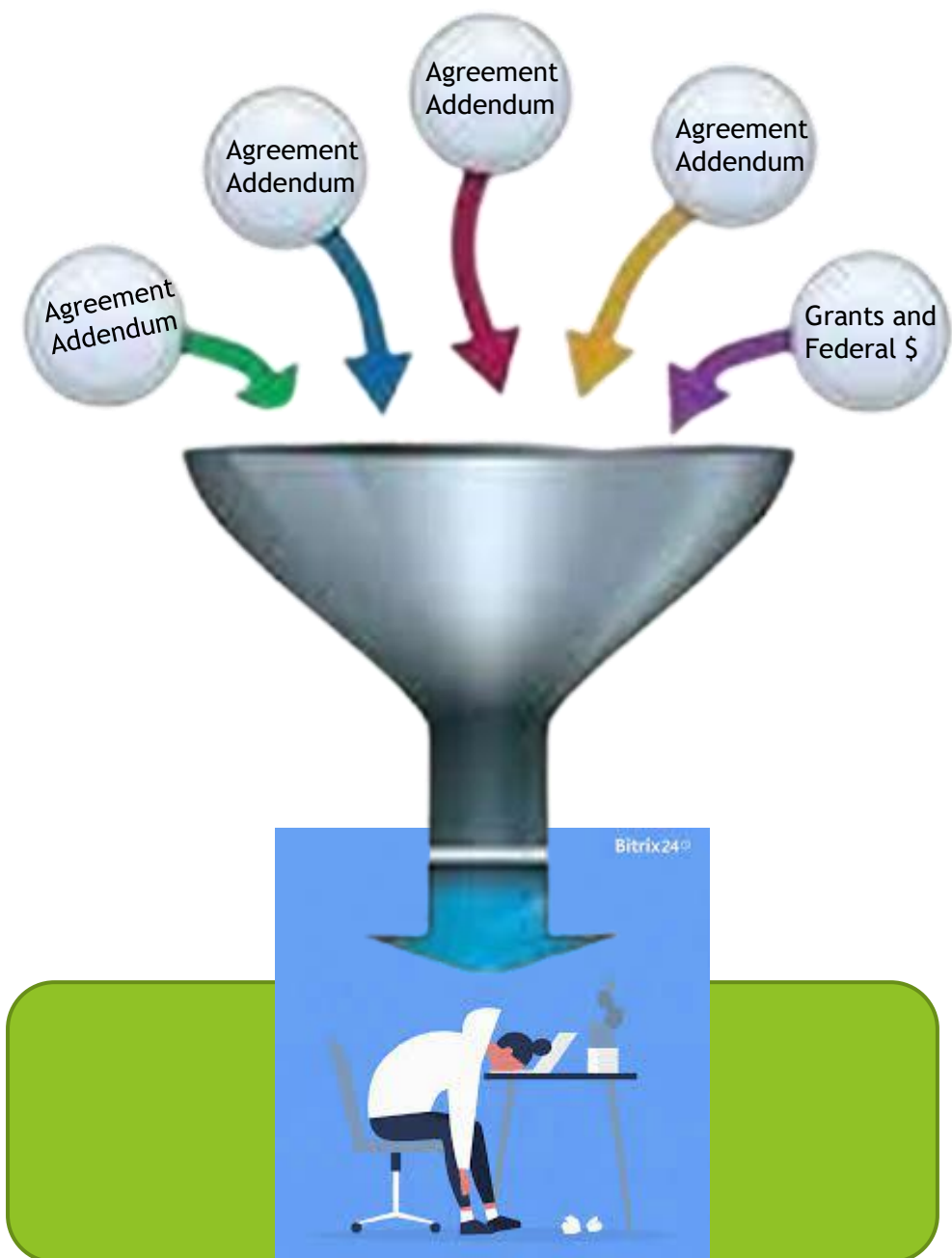
- ▶ Per capita funding for public health in NC is in the bottom 5% of the nation
- ▶ NC DPH / LHD represents less than 3% of total DHHS budget and less than 0.1% of state budget

Every System is Perfectly Designed to Get the Results it Gets.

- Deming / Batalden



The BURDEN of reporting accountability is significant and is the biggest barrier to systems change needed.





Public health is a great investment
For every \$1 spent in public health
and prevention services, there is a
\$5.60 return.

-Trust for America's Health

System Funding Differences

NC Local
Public
Health
< \$1 Billion
System

NC Medicaid
\$13 Billion
System

NC
Hospitals
\$60 Billion
System

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- ▶ It's time to invest boldly in public health.
- ▶ We must transform the funding coming to the local level so the work too transforms.



“The health of the people is really the foundation upon which all their happiness and all their powers as a state depend.”

-Benjamin Disraeli



NCALHD

North Carolina Association
of Local Health Directors