

# ***PUBLIC HEALTH FUND SUMMARY***

The Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment is part of a local system that focuses on the following:

- Preventing epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protecting against environmental hazards
- Preventing injuries
- Promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors
- Responding to disasters and assisting communities in recovery
- Assuring the quality and accessibility of health services



Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts and informed choices of society, organizations – public and private, communities and individuals. In partnership with the communities we serve, the health department preserves, promotes and protects the health and environment of the residents of Weld County.

The annual budget proposal is prepared within the financial targets established by the Board of County Commissioners. Resources are allocated within the Department's five divisions to support the mission of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through a focus on the ten essential elements of public health (represented in the diagram above.)

The Department's net county cost budget target for FY 2013 was established at \$3,681,779. This target projected cost-of-living increases in personnel costs for 2013 within parameters set by the Board. The Department budget submission is actually \$20,306 under the budget target. The department accomplished this through continuous fiscal diligence and commitment to the county principal of being efficient financial stewards of taxpayers' trust and resources.

Only three items are noteworthy given the Department's request coming in under target: (1) The Division of Environmental Health Services received mid-year approval in 2012 for 1.0 FTE increase in Environmental Health Specialist staff. This additional FTE is included in the proposed 2013 budget. (2) The Division of Health Communication, Education and Planning submitted, with Board approval, a grant application for Tobacco Education and Prevention programming. This grant, if funded, would support the recreation of 2.0 FTE of tobacco education specialists in the Division. The additional FTEs and projected grant revenue to support these positions are incorporated in the budget submission. (3) Demand for nutritional counseling continues to grow with the Department's focused work on obesity prevention. The Division of Health Communication, Education and Planning requested increasing the nutritionist FTE by 0.25. If approved, the Department would have 0.5 FTE committed to nutritional counseling services. This FTE request is also incorporated into the FY 2013 budget submission.