



MEDIA ADVISORY  
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Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098  
(630) 417-9729 cell

### **Health department deficit forces layoffs**

Declining revenues driven largely by state budget cuts combined with rising costs would lead to a projected \$1.4 million deficit in its fiscal year 2009 budget, the Kane County Health Department announced today.

A combination of factors has contributed to the projected deficit, including cuts in state and federal grants, a decline in licensing and inspection fees due to the current economic conditions, and decreased local tax revenue. In addition, the department's deficit is complicated by its long-time provision of worthwhile programs and services that are not fully supported by state grant dollars.

The size of the deficit will force a reduction of full- and part-time staff positions. In addition to eliminating 13 currently vacant positions, a total of 9 full-time jobs and 5 'full-time equivalent' jobs that are filled by part-timers (14 total 'full-time equivalents') will be eliminated from the Department's 2009 budget. A total of 25 current full- and part-time employees will be laid off. The layoffs will take effect Nov. 30, 2008.

"I deeply regret that we have to take this action," said Paul Kuehnert, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department. "At the same time, I know we are not alone—government agencies, businesses and families across the County are being affected by the downturn in the economy. And, like every family out there, we have to make tough decisions on how best to use our limited resources."

"We have announced these staff reductions nearly 90 days before they are to take effect for two reasons," Kuehnert continued. "First, we want our affected employees to have time to sort out their options and take care of themselves and their families. Secondly, we need to have as much time as possible to plan how we can minimize the impact these staff cuts will have on services to Kane residents."

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