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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 20, 2017



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HEARING — DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**Budget Hearing.** On November 17, 2017, Governor Kim Reynolds held a budget hearing for the Department of Public Health (DPH). Director Gerd Clabaugh gave updates on the Department's outreach activities over the past year and presented its budget request for FY 2019 as summarized in an earlier [Fiscal Update Article](#). Some highlights of the presentation include:

- Recent flexibility in the Infectious Diseases appropriation language permitted the Department to utilize some funding for mosquito monitoring related to the West Nile virus and Zika virus when federal funding ended.
- The Office of the State Medical Examiner hired a retired physician on a temporary basis to fill its fourth and final vacant medical examiner slot. The Office has now returned to a two-day turnaround period for autopsies. Due to the difficulties in hiring for this position, the Director recommended that using one of the Medical Residency Training Program slots for forensic pathology may be beneficial to the State.
- The Department received the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission's highest rating on a recent program evaluation.
- The Department continues to evaluate its budget focus through its core mission, with an emphasis on preventative public health policies. Its budget and legislative priorities for the year include supporting the Governor's four-point opioid strategy, administration of childhood obesity programs and policies, technology improvements for the AMANDA professional licensing system, and continued focus on the core mission.

**Department Request.** The Department submitted an FY 2019 request for General Fund appropriations totaling \$51.3 million. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2018.

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