



**Q CASE STUDY**

# Laying the Foundation for Modernizing Indiana’s Public Health System

## THE CLIENT

The Indiana Department of Health.

## BACKGROUND

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Indiana’s public health system, administered primarily at the local level, struggled to meet the state’s public health challenges. The pandemic further exposed the system’s deficiencies, as well as the geographic, racial, ethnic, and socio-economic disparities in health outcomes that exist across the state. Recognizing that the state can and must do better, Governor Eric Holcomb appointed a 15 member Governor’s Public Health Commission (“the Commission”) charged with examining the strengths and weaknesses of Indiana’s public health system and making recommendations for improvements.

The Commission held monthly meetings from September 2021 through July 2022. Its work was driven through the following six workstreams led by designated policy advisors who conducted research, engaged experts and stakeholders, and developed draft recommendations for the Commission’s consideration: 1) governance, infrastructure, and services, 2) public health funding, 3) workforce, 4) data and information integration, 5) emergency preparedness, and 6) child and adolescent health.

## APPROACH

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) engaged HMA to support the Commission’s work by **providing overall project management support; facilitating the work of the IDOH’s project Steering Committee; and providing staff support for Commission meetings and for each of the six workstreams.** This included meeting and agenda planning, preparation of meeting minutes and summaries, public health modernization research, and development of meeting materials. HMA also summarized public input received through the Commission’s website and at seven “Listening Tour” meetings held across the state, **prepared a draft final report that included draft findings and recommendations,** and collaborated with IDOH as the report was finalized.

## RESULTS

The Commission’s **final report** was released on August 4, 2022. The report’s findings and recommendations will form the basis of proposed legislation that will be offered in the 2023 session of the Indiana General Assembly, including proposals that would substantially increase public health service and funding across the state.



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