

## Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation pledges \$500,000 to Lehigh Valley Health Department

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The **Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation** has pledged to support the proposed Lehigh Valley Health Department with a five-year annual commitment of \$100,000.

The Foundation's Board of Directors unanimously approved the \$500,000 grant, according to a news release. The grant will be used to offset operating costs in the first five years. **The Lehigh Valley Board of Health has been working for 18 months to budget for the department, which has 11 members appointed by Lehigh and Northampton counties.**

**"The five-year pledge represents our strong commitment to funding a department that will provide essential services for the entire Lehigh Valley,"** says Paul Brunswick, president of the Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation. **"This is in line with our mission of enhancing the health and well-being of residents of Northampton County and surrounding areas."**

The grant is contingent on legislators in both counties approving the plan and budget. County officials will review this at a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday in Northampton County Council Chambers in Easton.

**"We deeply appreciate this new commitment by the Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation and recognize it as a testament to the strong support of the region's philanthropic sector for the bi-county health department,"** says Dr. David Lyon, Chair of the Board of Health. **"This level of support shows the great importance that our community leaders place on making this bi-county health department a reality."**

Services of the regional health department will include restaurant inspections; vaccinations; prevention of infant mortality and low-weight births; services to control the spread of communicable diseases; and increased and better-coordinated services for preventing diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

It would be the first bi-county health department in Pennsylvania and will make the Lehigh Valley eligible for accessing several million dollars in state or federal funding.

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