

(f) The Commission shall require that in developing local health plans, each local health planning agency:

(1) Use the population estimates that the Department prepares under § 4-218 of this article;

(2) Use the figures and special age group projections that the Department of Planning prepares annually for the Commission;

(3) Meet applicable planning specifications; and

(4) Work with other local health planning agencies to ensure consistency among local health plans.]

[19-119.

Annually each local health planning agency shall receive the Department's program and budgetary priorities no later than July 1 and may submit to the Secretary comments on the proposed program and budgetary priorities within 60 days after receiving the proposals.]

[19-120.

(a) (1) The governing body or bodies of 1 or more adjacent counties that constitute a health service area may establish a body to serve as the local health planning agency for the health service area, by:

(i) Making a joint agreement as to the purpose, structure, and functions of the proposed body; and

(ii) Each enacting an ordinance that designates the proposed body to be the local health planning agency for the county.

(2) The body so established becomes the local health planning agency if the Commission designates the body as a health planning agency.

(b) The governing board shall exercise all of the powers of the local health planning agency that, by law, agreement of the counties, or bylaws of the local health planning agency, are not conferred on or reserved to the counties or to another structure within the local health planning agency.

(c) In addition to the powers set forth elsewhere in this Part II of this subtitle, each local health planning agency created under this section may:

(1) Sue and be sued;

(2) Make contracts;

(3) Incur necessary obligations, which may not constitute the obligations of any county in the health service area;

(4) Acquire, hold, use, improve, and otherwise deal with property;

(5) Elect officers and appoint agents, define their duties, and set their compensation;