FY-2026 Annual Report

November 2026

By Will Humble, AzPHA Executive Director & the AzPHA Board of Directors

The Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA) continued to advance its mission in FY-2026 through public health advocacy, professional development, communication, and member engagement. Our work this year connected important policy choices to the public health consequences for Arizona communities.

We are a small but mighty organization that punches above our weight with a strong and influential statewide policy reach. Growing membership, partnerships, events, and a sustained public policy presence give AzPHA a useful platform for the work ahead.

Membership

AzPHA ended FY-2026 with 1,016 active members, compared with 986 in the FY-2025 worksheet, an increase of 30 members (3.0%). Membership has more than doubled from 496 in FY-2017. Organizational memberships continue to be the main driver of that growth.

The 609 people associated with organizational memberships represent about 60% of all members. The remaining membership includes 248 individual members, 89 students, 43 lifetime members, and 27 retired members. AzPHA continues to offer organizational membership tiers at $250, $500, $1,000, $3,000, and $5,000.

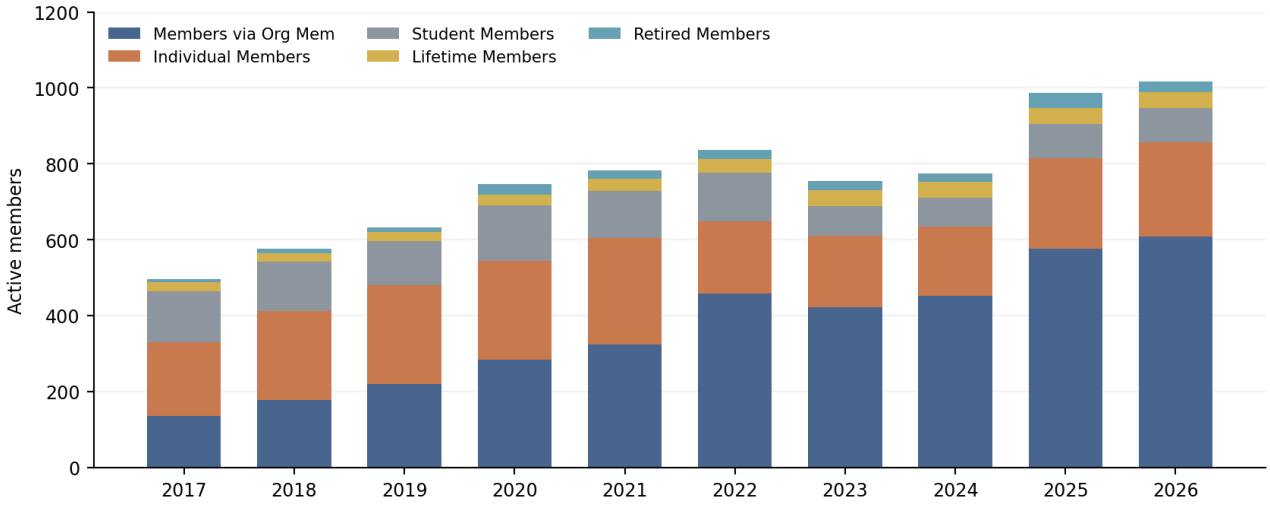

Figure 1. Active membership by category, FY2017–FY2026 (source: 2026 ED Annual Report Worksheet).

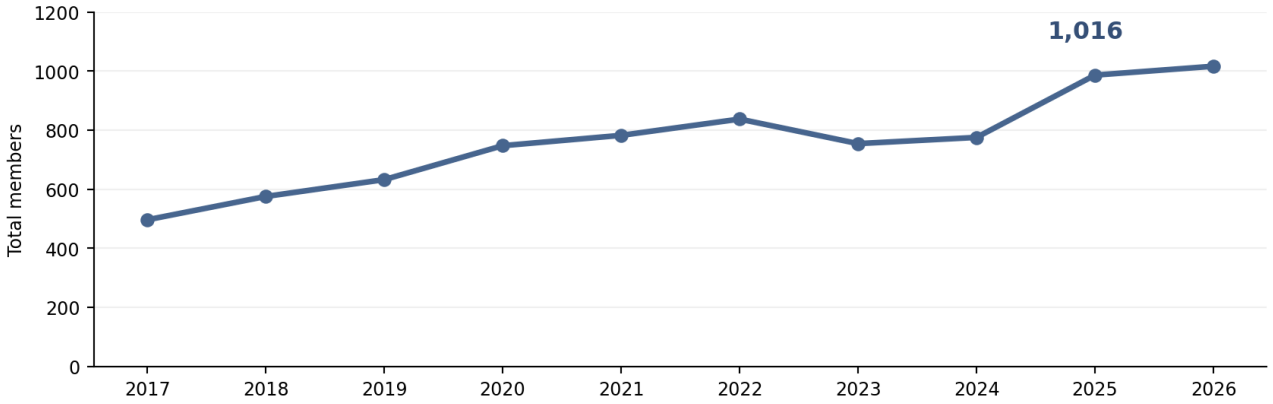

Figure 2. Total active membership, FY2017–FY2026 (source: 2026 ED Annual Report Worksheet).

Policy Priorities & Advocacy Activity

Throughout the year we delivered 50 timely Public Health Policy Updates, targeted Action Alerts, and multiple state and federal public-comment submissions. Our advocacy model remained practical and strategic: focus on the issues where AzPHA can add the most value and explain the public health consequences of policy choices in plain language. The following are major themes of the year, not an exhaustive list of our activity.

Medicaid, AHCCCS & Food Assistance

Our work focused heavily on the consequences of H.R. 1 for AHCCCS members, including new work and community engagement requirements, eligibility redeterminations, administrative capacity, and the effects on legally present immigrants. We tracked related rulemaking and litigation, explained what the changes mean for Arizona, and continued highlighting concerns about access to SNAP benefits.

Behavioral Health & Housing

Behavioral health stayed a priority across our conference and policy communications. Our coverage included serious mental illness services, supported housing, community-based services, the Arnold v. Sarn settlement framework, and the role of Medicaid in building a more effective system of care.

Clean Energy, Climate & Environmental Health

AzPHA engaged in debates about energy affordability and public health at the Arizona Corporation Commission and in local project siting decisions. Themes included the repeal of clean-energy and energy-efficiency rules, utility rate cases, solar and battery-storage projects, data-center cost allocation, and the health implications of environmental permitting and mining.

Immunization, Prevention & Public Health Infrastructure

AzPHA continued to communicate about influenza and COVID-19 vaccination, measles risks, vaccine policy, and evidence-based public health practice. We also examined

government decisions affecting public health authority, federal grants, and the capacity of public agencies to respond effectively.

Arizona Legislative & Election Policy

We provided information about the 2026 legislative session, public health implications of ballot proposals, and opportunities for a more ambitious public health policy agenda in 2027 and 2028. The central emphasis was to make policy choices understandable to members and explain what they could mean for Arizona communities.

AzPHA also tracked and explained major ballot measures in the November 2026 election, helping members understand their public health implications. We opposed Proposition 144, which would have imposed added voting identification requirements, including for early and mail ballots. Voters rejected it. We also opposed Proposition 319 because it restricted the future use of photo enforcement, including red-light cameras that can reduce serious right-angle crashes. Voters approved that measure despite our opposition.

Our ballot advocacy included public education through Will's Blog, election-related presentations, and member messaging. We explained the evidence behind our positions while recognizing that the ultimate decisions belong to Arizona voters.

AzPHA also contributed messaging and voter education in support of Maricopa County's Proposition 409 in November 2025. The narrowly approved $898 million bond measure will help Valleywise Health replace its aging behavioral health annex with a new 200-bed hospital, expanding care for people with serious mental illness.

It will also support outpatient clinics, emergency services, and medical training. With unmet behavioral health needs across the county, this investment in the public safety-net system was an important public health victory.

Ballot Propositions & Public Education

98th Annual Conference • May 1, 2026

Our spring conference, "From Crisis to Care: Improving Outcomes in Arizona's Behavioral Health System," was held May 1 at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix and drew 338 attendees. The program offered 14 unique sessions and featured seven student posters. Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, delivered the keynote address.

The program brought together policy and practice topics including Medicaid initiatives, crisis response, assertive community treatment and peer support, serious mental illness, supported housing, maternal behavioral health, substance-use prevention, and health technology. AzPHA members reviewed 36 conference abstracts. We also partnered with Mayo Clinic's Health Equity Partnership of Arizona for a pre-conference networking event.

Coffee & Conversations and Professional Development

AzPHA held four member webinars during 2026, with topics including the Arizona legislative session, cancer screening, public health communication, and civic participation. Our Coffee & Conversations series offered practical online learning and discussion. Examples include:

- April 24: Greg Loeben's session on finding flawed arguments and responding to misinformation.
- June: Gloria Coronado's presentation on trends in cancer screening among Arizona Medicaid members, 2018–2024.
- August 28: A public health perspective on the 2026 legislative session and Arizona ballot propositions.
- September 25: A Protect Democracy presentation on election integrity and actions Arizonans could take before the midterms.

2026 Public Health Awards

AzPHA held its annual public health awards event on October 29, 2026, at Social Hall in Tempe, with more than 96 registrants and more than 85 attendees. The event recognized people and organizations making significant contributions to public health in Arizona and is still an important opportunity to celebrate colleagues and build community.

Research, Communication & Public Voice

Our publications made technical policy and public health data more accessible. A June special report by Allan Williams examined a disturbing contrast: U.S. drug overdose deaths were falling while Arizona's estimated deaths increased in 2025. We also kept regular commentary on Medicaid, communicable disease, environmental health, state policy, and the social determinants of health.

For the first time in several years, we also have part-time consultant support for operational priorities. Tiffany Luu has been helping AzPHA with this work and has been extremely helpful in strengthening our day-to-day capacity.

AzPHA Finances

AzPHA's financial position has strengthened considerably over the past decade. The worksheet reports $54,876 in total net assets in FY-2016 and $502,263 in FY-2025. Based on the updated reserve figure provided for this report, reserves are approximately $550,000 in FY-2026. Because the new figure is rounded and described as reserves, it should not automatically be treated as an audited year-end net assets total.

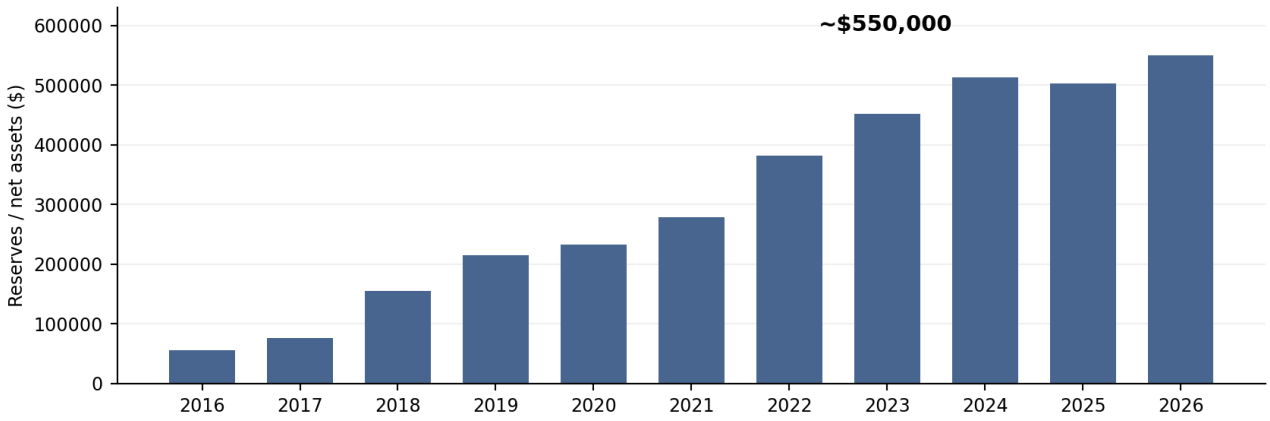

Figure 3. AzPHA financial position, FY2016–FY2026. FY2016–FY2025: worksheet total net assets; FY2026: approximately $550,000 in reserves, updated by Executive Director.

AzPHA has a strong financial foundation. The Board has also discussed how to put accumulated resources to work advancing our mission while supporting prudent operating reserves. The approximately $550,000 reserve figure is a management update; audited year-end assets and annual operating results are not represented here.

Annual budgets, IRS filings, and financial reports are made available to members through AzPHA's member resources.

Looking Ahead to 2027

2027 Annual Professional Development Conference

Our next annual conference, "Healthy Beginnings, Strong Futures," is scheduled for Friday, April 30, 2027, at the Desert Willow Conference Center in Phoenix. It will focus on maternal and child health, with sessions planned around preconception and maternal health, newborn screening and early care, vaccination and disease prevention, and healthy development through age five. The goal is to strengthen coordination among Arizona public health agencies, AHCCCS, healthcare providers, and community partners to improve maternal, infant, and early childhood health.

The 2026 election has opened a rare opportunity for Arizona public health policy. With Democratic majorities in both legislative chambers, Governor Katie Hobbs staying in office, and Attorney General Kris Mayes continuing in her role, there is more opportunity for legislative action and coordination than AzPHA has seen in decades.

Rather than spending most of our time defending against bills that would harm public health, we can help develop and advance evidence-based proposals.

As outlined in our November 9 policy inventory, potential priorities include restoring public health emergency authority; reviewing obsolete reproductive-health restrictions; strengthening immunization education and firearm injury prevention; expanding permanent supported housing for people with serious mental illness; reducing homelessness and heat-related risks; protecting electricity customers from unfair data-center costs; improving AHCCCS eligibility support and adult dental coverage; and

strengthening maternal and child health. These are opportunities, not a demand that every proposal be enacted in 2027. The new majority will need to prioritize, build consensus, consider funding, and decide which issues are best tackled in 2027 versus 2028.

Public Health Policy Opportunities in 2027–2028

AzPHA enters 2027 with more than 1,000 members, a broader organizational network, and a clear set of policy and professional development priorities. The legislative agenda, the implementation of federal Medicaid and nutrition policy changes, science-based prevention, behavioral health, and energy affordability all call for continued attention.

We will continue supporting public health professionals through Coffee & Conversations events, our publications, partnerships, and member engagement. Our shared vision is still Healthy Communities for Arizona.

Summary

FY-2026 was another productive year for the Arizona Public Health Association. We continued to grow our membership, reaching 1,016 members, more than double where we were in 2017. We also kept a strong financial position with approximately $550,000 in reserves. Our organizational memberships continue to be a major source of both financial support and member engagement, helping us keep a statewide presence despite our small staff.

Our public health policy work stayed a central part of our mission. We produced 50 Public Health Policy Updates, issued targeted Action Alerts, sent comments on state and federal policy proposals, and helped our members understand the public health implications of legislative and ballot measures.

Our work ranged from protecting access to AHCCCS and SNAP to behavioral health, clean energy, immunizations, and injury prevention. We also helped educate voters about Proposition 409, which passed and will provide important added resources for Valleywise Health's behavioral health and safety-net services.

Professional development and member engagement were also highlights of the year. Our spring behavioral health conference drew 338 attendees, and our Coffee & Conversations webinars, annual awards event, and other educational activities brought public health professionals together to learn from each other and strengthen their networks.

Looking ahead, we're planning our April 30, 2027, maternal and child health conference and preparing to take advantage of new opportunities to advance evidence-based public health policy with Arizona's incoming legislative majorities and statewide elected leadership.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the work and support of our Board of Directors and, especially, our members. I want to personally thank our Board members for the time, expertise, and leadership they've contributed throughout the year. Most importantly, I want to thank our individual and organizational members for their elbow grease, professional expertise, participation,

advocacy, and financial support. Your membership dues, organizational contributions, volunteer work, and willingness to engage on important public health issues are what make AzPHA effective.

We're a small organization with limited staffing, but our members give us the resources, credibility, and collective strength to have an impact far beyond our size. **You are the key to our success, and I'm grateful for everything you've done to help us advance our shared vision of Healthy Communities for Arizona.**