



CABINET FOR HEALTH  
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Public Health Laboratory Modernization

February 22, 2023

Commissioner Steven J. Stack, MD, MBA

# State Central Laboratory Building



- 30+ years old with substantial infrastructure and space problems
- Multiple tenants:
  1. KY Dept. for Public Health
    1. Division of Laboratory Services
    2. Radiation Health
  2. KY State Police
  3. KY Medical Examiner
  4. KY Environmental Cabinet

# Sample of CHFS Laboratory Mandates

- **KRS 211.190** Identifies certain services to be provided by the CHFS, including the establishment, maintenance and operation of public health laboratories.
- **KRS 211.345** Requires that the CHFS provide chemical and microbiological testing of private water supplies without charge.
- **KRS 211.903** Outlines testing for lead poisoning.
- **KRS 214.020** Specifies the ability to test and investigate to prevent spread of infectious diseases.
- **KRS 214.155** The CHFS shall operate a newborn screening program for heritable and congenital disorders.
- **KRS 214.160** Requires approval of labs performing mandated prenatal tests for syphilis and obligates the laboratory of the cabinet to provide such testing.
- **KRS 215.520** Specifies the provision of adequate support for outpatient TB clinics by high quality laboratories
- **KRS 217.025** Testing of food filth and food testing for adulteration.
- **KRS 217.045** Pesticides testing defined as an unsafe food additive.
- **KRS 217C.040** Establishes responsibility for oversight of dairy products.
- **KRS 258.085** Provides for the submission of animal heads for rabies testing.

# Public Health Division of Laboratory Services



- Molecular & Biomedical Testing
  - Newborn Screening & Metabolic Testing
  - 2022: 52,308 newborn samples – 2,876,940 total tests
- Global Preparedness & Environmental Testing
  - Federal Select Agent Testing
  - 2022: 4,024 samples – 55,755 total tests
- Microbiology
  - Bacteriology, Virology, & Genomic Sequencing
  - 2022: 49,183 samples – 85,994 total tests
- Numerous Quality, Compliance & Safety Programs



**FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR RENOVATION  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY'S**

# **CENTRAL LABORATORY BUILDING**

**FOR THE CABINET OF HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES,  
DIVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES**

**JANUARY 03, 2022**

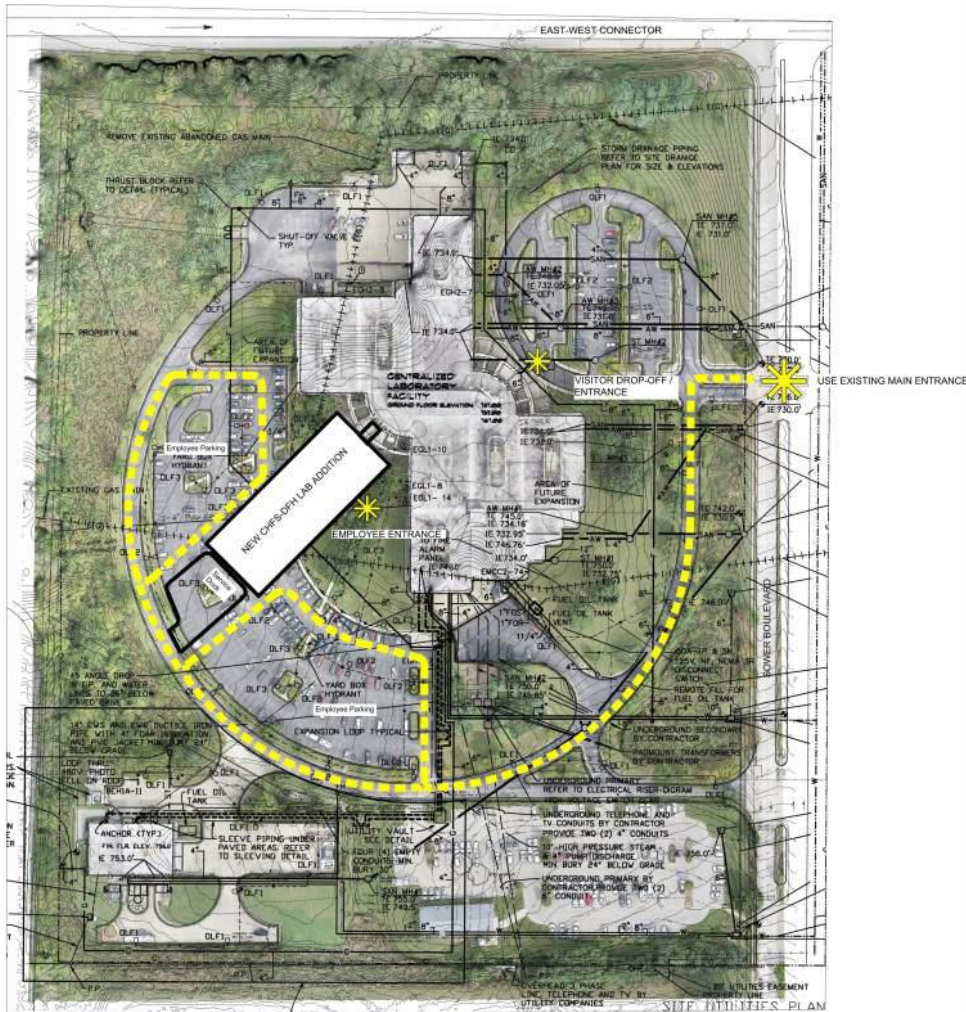


# Feasibility Study Topline Findings

“DLS is a tenant in the Central Laboratory Building, which is located on Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, KY. This building was designed and constructed in the early 1990’s using building **materials and building codes that are now 30 years old**. Section 3 documents many of the deficiencies that are present in the existing building, but **two serious challenges stand out**:

- **The lack of adequate space to safely and effectively work. This increases the risk to personnel, creates code violations, and compromises performance.**
- **The lack of proper stability of environmental conditions (i.e., temperature, humidity, air pressure, etc.) in the labs and the absence of a redundant HVAC system** that would typically be present in a facility performing critical services such as DLS provides. **Any interruption to HVAC systems due to failure or maintenance results in the DLS not meeting mission critical functions**, which impacts intervention and prevention strategies.”

# New Lab Construction



- New stand-alone building, sized for total program, with project cost of \$185 million.
- Goals:
  1. Increase internal and public-facing capabilities to better support mission of KDPH DLS.
  2. Upgrade building systems, infrastructure, and equipment that allows mission critical testing without disruption and with greater safety.
  3. More efficient with operations and space.
  4. Advance safety protocol and lab procedures.
  5. Dramatically improve well-being of staff.
  6. Implement sustainability practices & standards.

# More than 6 Year Timeline to Replace

## OVERALL PROJECT SCHEDULE:



- 6-year capital planning and 2-year biennial budget processes
- Next opportunity is 2024 – 2026 biennial budget
- If approved in next budget, earliest occupancy of new laboratory would be mid-2029, at which point current lab would be nearly 40 years old





# Questions