

# City Makes Cuts To Health Services

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**COLUMBUS, Ohio** — The city health department outlined plans on Tuesday night to make cuts to healthcare services.

Mayor Michael Coleman recommended that Columbus Public Health cut 36 jobs, including both full and part-time positions, 10TV's Kevin Landers reported.

Some of the Neighborhood Health Centers in Columbus will also feel the effects of the budget cuts. The city will close the West Side Women's Health Center in 2009.

Oswaldo Macia and his wife depend on prenatal care at the East Central Health Center.

"This is a very important place for us," Macia said. "If this clinic closed for any reason, I'd have to worry about it."

The Neighborhood Health Centers cost the city \$5 million each year.

"Part of the budget includes \$1 million in cuts to Neighborhood Health Centers, and they are going to be working to see how they can better serve their clients given that cutback," said health department spokesman Jose Rodriguez.

The department will protect mandated health services, including immunization programs, Landers reported.

City councilmember Kevin Boyce said it is unknown just how deep the cuts will be.

"We're going to look at things that we can adjust and sort of recreate how we do business and how we can deliver that service," Boyce said. "More importantly, we'll begin to rethink what we can do and what we have the capacity to do and where it fits as a priority."

The department plans to outsource billing services next year.

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