

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration

Fact Sheet



Discretionary public health spending

Discretionary spending funds most public health agencies and programs nationwide, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration. This type of spending must go through the annual congressional appropriations process, and the money cannot be allocated without congressional approval.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

By translating research findings into effective intervention efforts, CDC is a key source of funding for many of our state and local programs that improve the health of communities. Federal funding through CDC provides the foundation for our state and local public health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communications systems. More than 70 percent of CDC's budget supports public health and prevention activities by state and local health organizations and agencies, national public health partners and academic institutions.

CDC continues to be faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities, ranging from chronic disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, and bioterrorism preparedness to combating the obesity epidemic and antibiotic resistance. CDC funds: programs in injury control; health promotion in schools and workplaces; initiatives to prevent diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stroke; improvements in nutrition, immunization and oral health; programs to monitor and combat environmental and global health threats; and public health research.

CDC serves as the command center for our nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From monitoring and investigating the ongoing measles outbreak to pandemic flu preparedness to Ebola, West Nile and SARS detection, CDC is the nation's - and the world's - expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States, communities and the international community rely on CDC for accurate information and direction during a crisis or outbreak.

Health Resources and Services Administration

Through strengthening the health workforce, supporting innovative programs and delivering quality health services to people who live in medically underserved areas, HRSA helps to build healthy communities and healthy people. Some of the major programs carried out by HRSA include:

Health Workforce programs that support education and training to ensure a sufficient and capable workforce able to provide care for the nation's growing, aging and increasingly diverse population and improve the distribution and diversity of health professionals in medically underserved communities;

Primary Care programs that support over 9,000 health center sites in every state and territory, improving access to comprehensive preventive and primary care for primarily low-income individuals or people living in areas with few health care providers;

Maternal and Child Health programs that promote optimal health, combat infant mortality, prevent chronic conditions and improve access to quality care by providing prenatal and postnatal care, newborn screening tests and immunizations for about 42 million vulnerable women, infants and children;

HIV/AIDS programs that provide assistance to areas most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic; support comprehensive care, drug assistance and support services for about half of the estimated 1 million people living with HIV infection; and decrease the risk of transmitting HIV to others by keeping people in treatment;

Family Planning Title X programs that ensure access to a broad range of reproductive, sexual and related preventive health care for more than 4.5 million low-income women, men and adolescents, helping to prevent an estimated 870,000 unintended pregnancies;

Rural Health programs that improve access to care for people living in rural areas where there is a shortage of health services and help rural hospitals and clinics implement new technologies and strategies.

Investment in the public health system saves lives and money

Restoring and strengthening investments in public health is critical to improving and protecting the health of all Americans. It is imperative that Congress and the administration develop a long-term agreement that replaces the devastating cuts under current austerity measures and provides strong funding for CDC and HRSA. Adequate and sustained funding levels are necessary for the nation's public health agencies that support and strengthen the public health system so it is able to respond to everyday health threats and unexpected public health emergencies and ensure all people have access to the health services they need.

