

## 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 is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities ranging from emergency preparedness to chronic disease prevention to combating the tobacco and obesity epidemics. CDC funds programs for: injury control and violence prevention; global health security; health promotion in schools and workplaces; the prevention of diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung disease and other chronic diseases; nutrition and physical activity; immunization; environmental health; oral health; preventing infant mortality and birth defects; preventing antimicrobial resistance; preventing prescription drug overdose; and public health research and health statistics.

CDC serves as the command center for the nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From aiding in the surveillance, detection and prevention of the Zika virus to playing a lead role in the control of Ebola in West Africa and detecting and responding to cases in the U.S., to combating antibiotic resistant bacteria, 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 in 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 or face barriers to needed care. HRSA helps to build healthy communities and healthy people. Some of the major programs carried out by HRSA include:

**Health Workforce** programs that provide support across the training continuum and offer scholarship and loan repayment programs to ensure a well-prepared, well-distributed and diverse workforce that is ready to meet the needs of the 21st century;

**Primary Health 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 vulnerable women, infants and children;

**HIV/AIDS** programs that provide assistance to areas most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic; support a comprehensive system of care for more than 533,000 people impacted by HIV/AIDS; 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 million low-income women, men and adolescents, helping to prevent 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.



The American Public Health Association champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the profession of public health, promote best practices and share the latest public health research and information. We are the only organization that influences federal policy, has a 140-plus year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health.

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