

March 2013

Request: *Continue to fund policies and programs that allow all groups to attain high-quality longer lives, free of preventable disease, injury, and premature death.*

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."
— Benjamin Franklin



We must protect and increase funding for public health programs at all levels

The Case for Prevention

- ⇒ Chronic diseases account for 7 out of 10 deaths in America each year
- ⇒ Investing in prevention yields long-term health savings and saves lives
- ⇒ Prevention shows a 5-to-1 return on investment.
- ⇒ Health care now accounts for 18% of GDP, and it's expected to account for 19.6% by 2021.¹
- ⇒ Increasing spending in public health leads to declines in preventable deaths.
- ⇒ Businesses benefit from investing in prevention through lower healthcare costs for employees, greater worker productivity, stronger global competitiveness, and healthier individuals and communities that can benefit local business.²
- ⇒ Cuts to domestic programs that improve the health of communities will deny services and investments that are critical to the American people.
- ⇒ Those services include fewer breast and cervical cancer screenings for low-income, high-risk women, fewer doses of vaccine against diseases like hepatitis, flu, measles and whooping cough for children and adults in need of immunizations, less funding for medical research, and less support for community health centers.
- ⇒ A balanced deficit reduction plan will protect children, families and our economic future.



www.apha.org

Resources: www.apha.org/advocacy/figs/infographic.htm

Source: APHA Infographic

Prevention and Public Health Fund

The Prevention and Public Health Fund, the nation's first mandatory funding stream dedicated to public health programs, was created through the Affordable Care Act. It was developed to provide a steady investment in proven prevention efforts that address the spiraling growth in chronic illnesses.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides an opportunity to turn our sick care system into a health care system by bringing communities together on innovative projects that will help reverse the obesity epidemic and bring health costs down.

- ⇒ The Fund is the single largest investment to prevention and the public's health. High quality preventive care helps Americans stay healthy, avoid or delay onset of disease, lead productive lives and reduce health care costs.
- ⇒ Quality, affordable medical care and community prevention must work hand-in-hand. Prevention is critical to fixing our health care system.
- ⇒ The Fund provides an opportunity to improve the Health of ALL Americans through community and clinical prevention efforts.

Community Transformation Grants

- ⇒ The Fund supports the Community Transformation Grants (CTG) program, which implements community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.
- ⇒ In FY2012, CTG awards were provided to areas with fewer than 500,000 people in neighborhoods, school districts, villages, towns, cities, and counties to increase opportunities to prevent chronic diseases and promote health.
- ⇒ Awarded communities will implement broad, sustainable strategies to reduce health disparities and expand clinical and community preventive services that will directly impact about 9.2 million Americans.
- ⇒ Depleting the Public Health Prevention Fund will weaken public health infrastructure, the workforce, and our capacity to save lives.

HeLP America Act

Senator Tom Harkin introduced the *Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America (HeLP America) Act* on January 22, 2013. The bill outlines critical public health and prevention initiatives to fight chronic disease, encourage healthier schools, communities and workplaces, and improve physical activity opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Provisions include:

- ⇒ **Health in All Policies:** Requires HHS to conduct a health impact assessment of major non-health legislative proposals and to detail staff to other departments to assist them with consideration of health impacts of their activities.
- ⇒ **Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans:** Requires HHS to issue and update physical activity guidelines for all ages every 10 years while compiling intermediate reports highlighting specific groups, issues, concerns, or practices.
- ⇒ **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Marketing to Children:** Requires the FTC, FDA, CDC, and USDA to issue recommendations for standards for food marketing to children.
- ⇒ **National Assessment of Mental Health Needs:** Requires the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to build on existing monitoring systems, or create new ones, to better assess mental health and substance use disorder status and risks.
- ⇒ **Healthy Workforce:** Provides tax credits to businesses that offer comprehensive workplace wellness

- 1) Public Health Prevention Efforts: Saving Lives, Saving Money? Available at: http://www.allhealth.org/publications/Public_health/Public_Health_Prevention_Efforts_Issue_Brief_115.pdf
- 2) Investing in Prevention Improves Productivity and Reduces Employer Costs. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/policy/resources/Investingin_ReducesEmployerCosts.pdf

