



BCHC FY2022 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) members are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery. Valuable lessons learned include:

- ▶ We must **invest in the infrastructure of the public health system** to promote and protect the health and safety of all.
- ▶ We must **build an appropriately skilled, well-qualified, and well-resourced public health workforce** on which our communities can rely.
- ▶ We must **address the social determinants to improve health** and build more equitable communities.
- ▶ We must **address structural racism**.
- ▶ To improve the health of urban America, it is critical that **federal dollars flow through the states, at a minimum, but ideally, directly to localities that are most in need**.

KEY POLICY PRIORITIES

- ▶ **Public Health Workforce** Long-term, sustainable, and predictable investments in the governmental public health workforce, infrastructure and capacity are desperately needed. Congress should invest in all three. This includes a new \$400 million investment in the President’s FY2022 budget. Further, Congress should support CDC’s fellowship in the workforce by implementing a loan repayment program for those who agree to serve two years in a local, state, or tribal health department.
- ▶ **Public Health Emergency Fund** Authorize and finance a public health emergency fund to allow jurisdictions to immediately access federal dollars in a future public health emergency or disaster rather than waiting on supplemental dollars to be appropriated down the road.
- ▶ **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)** Federal funding must place an emphasis on primary prevention, not just responding to the current crises that include opioids, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs. It is critical that dollars get local. Further, localities and states should be free to experiment with innovative policy and practice related to SUD without the threat of federal prosecution.
- ▶ **Tobacco Flavor Regulation** Support the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in implementing flavor restrictions on all tobacco products, including all menthol and other flavors, through both administrative and, as necessary, legislative action. Further, Congress should support efforts to reduce nicotine in cigarettes to minimally or non-addictive levels.
- ▶ **Injury and Violence Prevention** Increase resources to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by extension, local communities, to support innovative practice and data collection at all levels of government as it relates to violence and injury prevention. This includes authorizing programs to address the epidemic of violence at the local level; continue to promote common sense gun laws to protect communities; and continue to invest in and expand local data systems, particularly as it relates to violence and injury. Expand the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program from 23 to 50 states, the only program in the nation that implements, evaluates, and expands strategies to reduce pressing injury and violence challenges across the country.

FY 2022 BCHC APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES FOR THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

Most CDC funding gets passed through to states and localities. Below are important program areas that fund public health activities in communities across the nation.

- ▶ **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity** Support disease detection in communities across the country.
- ▶ **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** Support preparedness activities in local and state health departments across the country that build capacity to prevent, protect, and respond to public health emergencies.
- ▶ **Office of Smoking and Health** Support activities to stem the tide of e-cigarette use among youth.
- ▶ **317 Immunization Program** Support health department infrastructure to provide vaccines for those most in need and address vaccine hesitancy.
- ▶ **Gun Violence Research** Support firearm prevention research to address gun violence as a public health crisis.
- ▶ **Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance** Support local and state health departments with resources and support to advance interventions for preventing drug overdoses.
- ▶ **Data Modernization Initiative** Modernize public health data systems and recruit and retain

skilled data scientists both at CDC, and state, local, and territorial health departments. Invest in local data systems that allow real time measurement of key indicators related to violence, substance misuse, and the social determinants of health. BCHC is a partner in the Data: Elemental to Health Campaign to modernize public health data systems at all levels of government.

- ▶ **Community Violence Initiative** Implement evidence-based, hyper local violence interventions, implementing policies and practices that address root causes. Investing in public health strategies within communities most impacted by violence, cities can work across sectors to shift from an overreliance on the criminal justice system to reimagining and realizing community safety.
- ▶ **Social Determinants of Health** Ramp up CDC's program to coordinate the agency's social determinants of health activities and improve capacity of local and state public health agencies and community organizations to do so.

Increase funding to CDC to support infrastructure at CDC, as well as local and state public health activities in communities.

The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America's largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of their residents. Collectively, BCHC's 30 member jurisdictions directly impact nearly 62 million people, or one in five Americans.

For more information, contact **Chrissie Juliano** at juliano@bigcitieshealth.org

bigcitieshealth.org

FY2022 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES FOR THE CDC IN millions



\$500

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY



\$1,000

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNDING



\$310

OFFICE OF SMOKING AND HEALTH



\$1,130

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM



\$25

GUN VIOLENCE RESEARCH



\$650

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE



\$250

DATA MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE



\$100

COMMUNITY BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION INITIATIVE



\$153

CDC SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH PROGRAM

\$10 billion

CDC OVERALL