



FY 2024 POLICY & FUNDING PRIORITIES

**BIG CITIES
HEALTH COALITION**

Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) members work on the front lines to address a host of critical and chronic public health challenges, from infectious disease outbreaks to drug overdose to natural disasters. To fully protect the public’s health in cities across the nation, we need to...

- ▶ **invest in the infrastructure of the public health system** to promote the health and safety of all.
- ▶ **continue to build an appropriately skilled and resourced public health workforce** on which our communities can rely.
- ▶ **make positive changes to broader structures that affect health** (social determinants of health) and build more equitable communities.
- ▶ **address structural racism.**

THE BIG PICTURE

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

CORE POLICY PRIORITIES

▶ **Pandemic Preparedness**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 included [important provisions](#) to address pandemic preparedness. In the 118th Congress, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) must be reauthorized for the fourth time to maintain key legal authorities to sustain and bolster our nation’s preparedness for public health emergencies, including emerging infectious diseases. It is also critically important to fund programs authorized under PAHPA at the highest levels possible and to directly resource large urban health departments to shore up their infrastructure and workforce. Many of these departments must respond to emergencies at the scope and scale of state agencies, all too often with insufficient resources.

▶ **Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity** Because public health funding is largely tied to specific diseases or conditions, there has been little investment in cross-cutting capabilities that are critical for effective public health. Ongoing investment is critical to ensuring that our governmental public health system is prepared for the next pandemic as well as to strengthen the health of our communities every day.

▶ **Injury and Violence Prevention**

Increase resources to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support innovative violence and injury prevention practice and data collection at all levels of government. Authorize local programs to address the violence epidemic; promote common-sense gun laws to protect communities; and continue to invest in and expand systems to track local data on violence and injury.

▶ **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**

Federal funding must emphasize primary prevention, not just respond to current overdose crises. Dollars must get local. Localities and states should be free to experiment with promising, innovative harm reduction policy and practice 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 menthol and other flavors, through both administrative and, as necessary, legislative action. Further, Congress should support efforts to reduce nicotine in cigarettes to minimal or non-addictive levels.

BCHC'S FY 2024 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES FOR CDC

Through Congressional directive and a better understanding of the importance of strong local public health, more federal dollars have started to reach large cities and counties directly. We encourage this to continue to the greatest extent possible. Below are important program areas that fund public health activities in urban communities across the nation.

▶ **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC)** Support disease detection in communities across the country.

▶ **Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)** Support preparedness activities in local and state health departments to build their capacity to prevent, protect, and respond to public health emergencies.

▶ **Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity** Invest in cross-cutting capabilities that are critical for effective public health.

▶ **Public Health Workforce** Support a strong workforce with sustained, predictable funding. Build the pipeline through CDC Fellowships and loan repayment.

▶ **Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance** Support local and state health departments with resources to advance interventions for preventing drug overdoses, including broad access to naloxone and other harm reduction measures.

▶ **Data Modernization Initiative** Support modernized systems. Invest in local data systems to allow real-time measurement of key indicators not just for infectious disease but also for 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.

▶ **Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA)** CFA serves as a hub for infectious disease modeling and analytics, providing public health officials and policymakers with the data needed to make critical decisions amid emerging public health threats.

▶ **Violence Prevention** Support firearm violence prevention research. Support Community Violence Initiative (CVI) and Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention funding at CDC to help communities implement evidence-based, hyperlocal interventions that address root causes. By investing in public health strategies in 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** Support CDC's ability 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 as well.

FY24 APPROPRIATIONS PRIORITIES FOR CDC IN millions

 **\$720**

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND
LABORATORY CAPACITY

 **\$1,000**

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS FUNDING

 **\$1,000**

PUBLIC HEALTH
INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPACITY

 **\$106**

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

 **\$713**

OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION
AND SURVEILLANCE

 **\$340**

DATA MODERNIZATION INITIATIVE

 **\$100**

CENTER FOR FORECASTING
AND OUTBREAK ANALYTICS

 **\$250**

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
INITIATIVE AND RESEARCH

 **\$35**

FIREARM VIOLENCE
PREVENTION RESEARCH

 **\$100**

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS
OF HEALTH PROGRAM

\$11.5 billion
CDC OVERALL

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 35 member jurisdictions directly impact more than 61 million people, or one in five Americans.

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