



**BIG CITIES
HEALTH COALITION**

PUBLIC HEALTH WORKS | The Power of Public Health Infrastructure Funding

CDC’s investment in public health infrastructure was unprecedented. Now it should set a precedent.

As of January 2024, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded \$4.35 billion to strengthen public health infrastructure across the nation. These funds help ensure that 107 state, territorial, and local health departments have the people, services, and systems they need to promote and protect health in their communities. Everyone in the U.S. lives in a jurisdiction receiving funding under [this grant](#).

CDC expects to award more than \$5 billion over the five-year grant period. These funds expire November 2027, so health departments face a funding cliff. Therefore, Congress should continue to provide funding through the public health infrastructure line in CDC’s budget. The dollars can continue building a stronger, public health system ready to face future health threats and ongoing challenges.

WHY INFRASTRUCTURE

Governmental public health has struggled for decades under a boom-and-bust funding cycle: health departments generally receive inadequate funding and then suddenly receive large tranches of emergency dollars to respond to the crisis of the moment. Without sustained and predictable funding, local and state health departments cannot build staff and systems to sufficiently surge when needed.

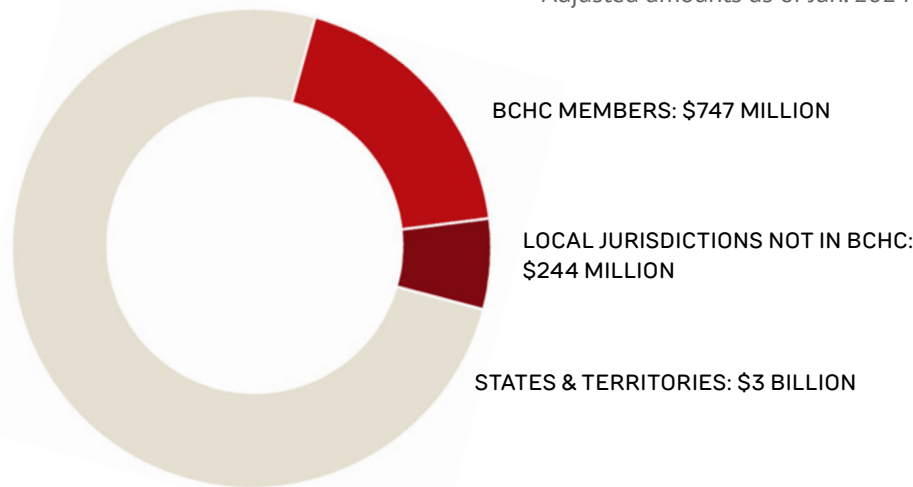
By equipping state and local health departments with the necessary people, services and systems, we can drive improved health outcomes and build more resilient and prosperous communities. Investment in foundational public health services – like communication, policy development, workforce development and community partnerships – leads to measurable improvement for states and local communities.

WHY LOCAL

Part of what makes these federal awards unprecedented is that they were delivered directly to local health jurisdictions. Typically, federal funding comes to local health departments through their state health agencies.

CDC Public Health Infrastructure Funding

Adjusted amounts as of Jan. 2024



WHAT CDC'S INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING DOES

CDC's public health infrastructure grant program boosts governmental public health in three core areas:

- ▶ **Workforce** Recruiting, training, retaining, and supporting a larger and more diverse public health staff at the state/territorial and local levels.
- ▶ **Foundational capabilities** Strengthening organizational system and processes.
- ▶ **Data modernization** Creating a more modern and efficient data infrastructure that enables jurisdictions to make public health data more readily available.



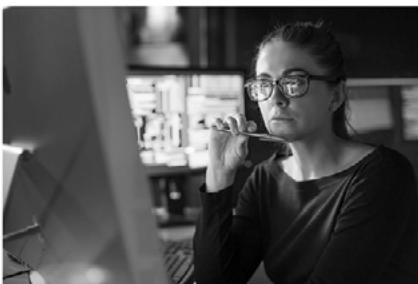
Local health departments know what they need to do to prepare for disease outbreaks and other crises, and, largely, how to respond when they do occur. However, as a nation we have not collectively, at any level of government, invested in the infrastructure needed to execute those plans.

— "THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING PUBLIC HEALTH," [HEALTH AFFAIRS](#)

Well-funded local infrastructure enables work such as (top to bottom): mobile services for neighborhoods that have little health care access (Seattle); greening projects that contribute to safer neighborhoods and healthy food access (Philadelphia); programs that intervene in community violence before it starts and support local youth (Minneapolis), and lead testing for children and removal of lead from older homes (Los Angeles)

DATA MODERNIZATION LOOKS LIKE ...

A **data scientist** visualizing social media feeds to help monitor suicide trends



A **responder** catching an uptick in overdose deaths and sending fentanyl test strips to the frontline



More at cdc.gov/surveillance/data-modernization/snapshot/2022-snapshot/index.html



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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