



**Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO)**

**National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
FY 2020 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020 President's Request</b>	<b>FY2020 TFAH Request</b>
Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity	\$54,920,000	\$56,920,000	\$0*	\$125,000,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$110,000,000 for Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity</li> <li>• \$15,000,000 for HOP</li> </ul>

**Background:** According to Trust for America’s Health’s *State of Obesity 2018* [report](#), sustained, meaningful reductions in obesity rates have not been achieved nationally, except possibly among our youngest children in low-income families. In 2015-2016, 18.5 percent of children and 39.6 percent of adults had obesity – the highest rates ever documented by CDC. However, rates of obesity and severe obesity have declined among 2- to 4-year-olds enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). While overall obesity rates are still worsening, there are pockets of success and progress that will be at risk if programs are cut and policies are weakened. Therefore, addressing the obesity epidemic remains imperative for ensuring the health of the nation.

With 2 of every 5 Americans living with obesity, millions of Americans at higher risk for hypertension, high cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers, and many other negative health consequences. Obesity also is one of the biggest drivers of preventable chronic diseases and health care costs in the United States. Currently, it is estimated that the annual healthcare costs of obesity-related illness are \$190 billion – or nearly 21 percent of annual medical spending in the U.S. Obesity also disproportionately impacts racial and ethnic minorities, low-income Americans, and those living in the South and Midwest. CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) protects the health of all Americans by supporting healthy eating, active living, and obesity prevention by creating healthy child care centers, hospitals, schools, and worksites; building capacity of state health departments and national organizations; and, conducting research, surveillance and evaluation studies.

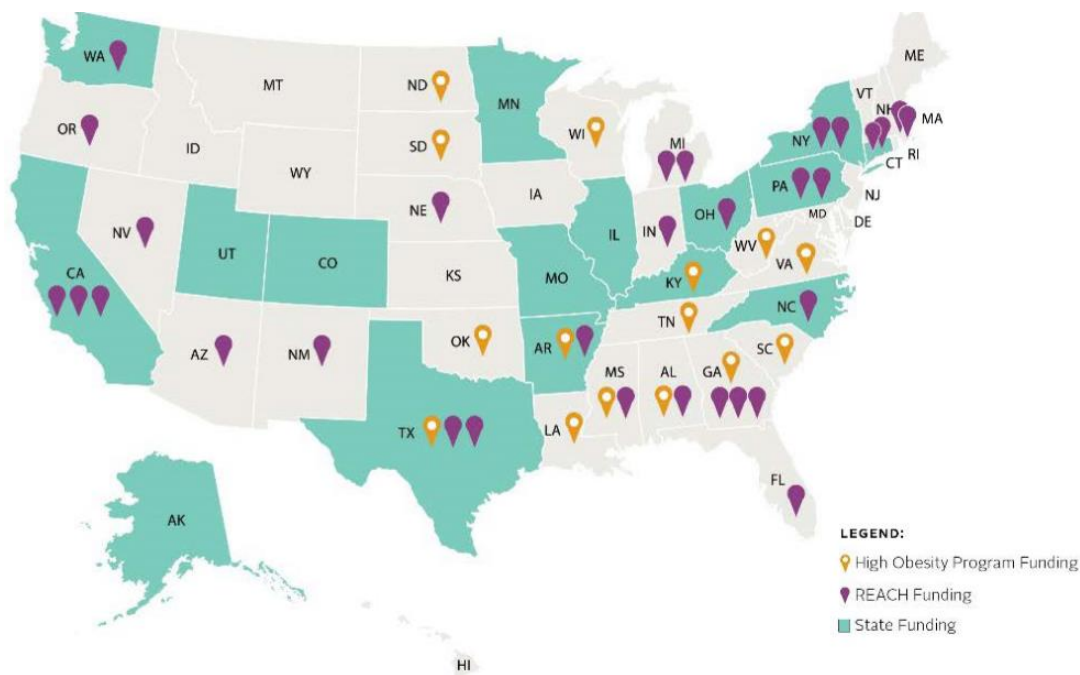
**Impact:** CDC’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity & Obesity partners with national, state and local groups to advance several obesity prevention initiatives, including: Early Childcare and Education (ECE) Obesity Prevention Program, Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration

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\* The President’s FY20 budget proposes to cut funding and consolidate DNPAO (and other budget lines) in order to create *America’s Health Block Grant*, which would give states more flexibility in addressing leading public health challenges.

(CORD) Projects, High Obesity County Program, and State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (SPAN). High Obesity County Program and SPAN are of particular interest to TFAH:

- **The High Obesity Program** focuses on counties with a greater than 40 percent obesity rate. In 2018, CDC funded 15 land grant universities to work with community extension services to increase access to healthier foods and safe and accessible places for physical activity in these priority counties. Current funding levels (\$15 million) supports all eligible states that applied and TFAH recommends level funding for FY20.
- **State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program (SPAN)** replaced the State Public Health Action grants (also known as 1305 grants) in 2018. The SPAN model provides substantive levels of funding to 16 states to implement evidence-based strategies at state and local levels to improve nutrition and physical activity. These 5-year grants provide grantees the support and flexibility to work on evidence-based strategies with multiple stakeholders and sectors. Areas of work focus on strategies related to breastfeeding, food service guidelines, nutrition and physical activity standards in statewide early care and education (ECE) systems, and physical activity access. It is estimated for each additional \$1.2 million in SPAN funding, an additional state could be added to the program. TFAH recommends that increases in DNPAO funding prioritize bringing on more states into the SPAN program.



**Recommendation:** Fund CDC’s DNPAO at \$125 million for FY20 to allow CDC to continue building state-level capacity and scaling local community interventions that would improve nutrition and promote physical activity. Funding evidence-based programs to address obesity is critical and demands immediate attention, as the current epidemic of sedentary behavior negatively impacts our health, the health of the aging population, our economy, and our national security.