

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act of 2021 (S. 674)

Background

COVID-19 is a stark reminder of the importance of our public health infrastructure and workforce. Public health departments must respond quickly to emergencies while maintaining the day-to-day work they do to support healthy communities. But annual spending falls \$4.5 billion short of what is needed to ensure that all communities are served by health departments with comprehensive capabilities. The result is increased vulnerability to health emergencies like COVID-19, as well as to emerging and ongoing public health challenges like chronic diseases and substance misuse.

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act (S. 674) would establish a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), awarding grants to state, local, tribal and territorial health departments to ensure they have the tools, workforce, and systems in place to address existing and emerging health threats and reduce health disparities.

Foundational Capabilities of Public Health



Assessment – disease surveillance, epidemiology and laboratory capacity



All Hazards Preparedness and Response – the capacity to respond to public health threats



Policy Development & Support – the ability to serve as expert resource for public health policy



Communications – the ability to translate public health science to messaging for media, public, healthcare



Community Partnership – the ability to convene and build strategic partnerships across sectors



Leadership & Governance - the ability to lead internal and external stakeholders to consensus and action



Accountability – Performance management and quality improvement



Equity – the capacity to end and prevent disparities and promote optimal health in all communities

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Summary

HOW WILL SUSTAINED INVESTMENT PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS?

The chronic underfunding of public health has limited health departments' ability to modernize labs, surveillance systems, and informatics, retain a skilled workforce, and to address the underlying health conditions that put so many people at heightened risk from COVID-19. The nation's response to COVID-19 would have been stronger with sufficient infrastructure and workforce in health departments. Such support would have resulted in greater capacity to identify cases, communicate effectively, locate those who had been exposed, and quickly put policies in place that would reduce the need to shut down schools and workplaces.

The repeated "boom and bust" cycle of funding public health only during emergencies has resulted in a shrunken workforce, archaic technologies, and stark health inequities. A consistent, long-term commitment to cross-cutting public health capabilities will enable health agencies to modernize, innovate, and maintain an experienced workforce.

BILL SUMMARY

The bill would create a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at CDC to help modernize public health at every level to ensure every American is served by a 21st century health department:

- State, tribal, territorial and local health departments would receive sustained funding to address the foundational capabilities of public health, a core [set of activities and measures](#) that ensure they have the tools, highly trained workforce and systems in place to address existing and emerging health threats.
- The program would award grants to all state and territorial health departments, and to local health departments serving over 500,000 people, based on a formula determined by factors including population size, burden of preventable disease and disability, and poverty rate.
- Additional competitive grants would be available based on core public health infrastructure needs to local and tribal health departments.
- Grantees would also be eligible for technical assistance from the CDC.
- Grant awards would supplement, and not supplant, existing public health department resources

KEY FACTS

- Only about half of the U.S. population is served by a comprehensive public health system.
- Experts estimate a \$4.5 billion annual shortfall in building foundational capabilities, or \$13 per person.
- Even before the pandemic, state health agencies lost nearly 10% of their workforce from 2012-2019, while local health departments lost about 16% of their staff from 2008-2019.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Supporting Organizations

A

- Academic Health Resources
- Action Communication and Education Reform
- AFSCME
- AIDS Action Baltimore
- AIDS Institute
- ALPHA, LLC
- Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer's Impact Movement
- America Walks
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association for Clinical Chemistry
- American Kidney Fund
- American Association for Respiratory Care
- American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
- American Association on Health and Disability
- American Clinical Laboratory Association
- American College of Clinical Pharmacy
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Health Information Management Association
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Medical Student Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Sexual Health Association
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society for Microbiology
- American Society for Reproductive Medicine
- American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
- Arthritis Foundation
- Ashland County Health Department
- Asian & Pacific Islander Health Forum
- Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Inc.
- Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
- Association of Public Health Laboratories
- Association of Public Health Nurses
- Association of Public Health Nutritionists
- Association of Schools and Programs of Public

Health

- Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors
- Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
- Association of State And Territorial Health Officials
- Association of State Public Health
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
- Atlantic Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network

B

- The Balm in Gilead, Inc.
- Behavioral Health Association of Providers
- Big Cities Health Coalition
- Biotechnology Innovation Organization
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Black Greeks in Public Health
- Black Hawk County (IA) Public Health
- Buffalo Trace (KY) District Health Department

C

- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy & Practice
- Cancer Support Community
- Caring Ambassadors Program
- Cascade AIDS Project
- California Immunization Coalition
- California Hepatitis C Task Force
- Captura Biopharma, Inc.
- Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona
- Catholic Health Association of the United States
- Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
- Center for Independence of the Disabled (NY)
- Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research
- Central California Asthma Collaborative
- Chenango Health Network, Inc.
- CHI Health Care
- Child Development Institute
- Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
- Children's Environmental Health Network
- Children's Mental Health Network
- Claire Heurouse Community Center, Inc.
- Coalition on Human Needs
- Colloidal Products
- Colorado Public Health Association
- Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
- Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
- Common Threads

- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
- Connecticut Public Health Association
- The Consortium
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County
- Council for Public Health Nursing Organizations
- CTIPP

D

- Delaware Academy of Medicine and the Delaware Public Health Association
- Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance
- Dia de la Mujer Latina, Inc.
- Dorchester County Health Department

E

- Earth & Spirit Center
- Endocrine Society
- Entomological Society of America
- Epic Systems
- Epilepsy Alliance America
- Epilepsy Foundation

F

- Family Resource Network
- FLIPANY
- The Foundation for Sustainable Communities
- Future of Life Institute

G

- Garrett (MD) Health Department
- George Washington University Cancer Center
- Georgia AIDS Coalition
- Georgians for a Health Future
- Gerontological Society of America
- Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
- Grand Traverse County (MI) Health Department
- Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

H

- Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center
- Hawaii Public Health Association
- Hawaii State Rural Health Association
- Health in Justice Action Lab, Northeastern University
- Health Resources in Action
- Healthy Teen Network
- Healthcare Leadership Council
- Healthcare Ready
- Hep Free Hawaii
- HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
- HIV Medicine Association
- Human Rights Campaign

To add your organization to the list, fill out this [form](#).

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Supporting Organizations

- Illinois Public Health Association
- The Immunization Partnership
- Immunize Nevada
- Immunize Ohio
- Impetus – Let’s Get Started LLC
- In the Public Interest
- Indiana Public Health Association
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Institute for Public Health Innovation
- Institute for Professional Education
- Integrative Medicine for the Underserved
- International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
- Iowa Public Health Association
- John A. Hartford Foundation
- John Snow, Inc.
- Johnson County Public Health, IA
- Jump IN for Healthy Kids
- Kansas City Health Department
- Kansas Public Health Association
- Kei-Impact Group, LLC
- Lafayette County Health Depart
- Lake County Health (IL) Department and Community Health Center
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
- Lanai Community Health Center
- Louisiana Public Health Association
- Louisiana Public Health Institute
- Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
- Maine Public Health Association
- March of Dimes
- Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.
- MaryCatherine Jones Consulting, LLC
- Maryland Public Health Association
- Mason County (KY) Health Coalition
- Massachusetts Public Health Association
- Maternal and Child Health Access
- Medical IMPACT
- Mendocino County Public Health, Community Wellness
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- MindWise Innovations
- Minnesota Public Health Association
- Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence
- Missouri Public Health Association
- Montana Public Health Association
- Montgomery County Department of Health
- Mother Lode Democrats of Amador County
- MultiCare Connected Care
- MultiCare Health System
- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Alliance for Caregiving
- National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Local Boards of Health
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- National Association of State Offices of Minority Health
- National Athletic Trainers' Association
- National Black Nurses Association
- National Capital Area Society for Public Health Education
- National Center for Complex Health & Social Needs, an initiative of the Camden Coalition
- National Center for Health Research
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council
- National Health Law Program
- National League for Nursing
- National Medical Association
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives
- National Rural Health Association
- National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA)
- National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
- National WIC Association
- National Women's Health Network
- NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
- Nevada Public Health Association
- New Hampshire Public Health Association
- New Jersey Public Health Association
- New Jersey Society for Public Health Education
- New Mexico Public Health Association
- New Progressive Alliance
- New York State Public Health Association
- North Carolina Alliance for Health
- North Carolina Society for Public Health Education
- Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Ohio Public Health Association
- Oklahoma Public Health Association
- Pacific Island Health Officers' Association
- Partnership for Better Health
- Partnership for Public Health
- Peggy Lillis Foundation
- Physicians for Social Responsibility AZ Chapter
- Physicians of Southwest Washington
- Positively Nourished LLC
- Prevent Blindness
- Prevention Access Campaign
- Prevention Institute
- The Pride Center at Equity Park
- Primary Care Development Corporation
- Professional Data Analysts
- Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson, AZ Chapter
- PSR Arizona (NFP)
- Public Health Accreditation Board
- Public Health Alliance of Southern California
- Public Health Foundation
- Public Health Institute
- Public Health Management Corporation
- Redstone Center for Prevention and Wellness
- Research!America
- RiverStone Health

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S

- Safe States Alliance
- Saint Alphonsus Health System
- San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Sandusky County Public Health
- The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
- Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
- Society for Public Health Education
- Society for Women's Health Research
- Society of Behavioral Medicine
- Sound Generations
- Southeastern Michigan Health Association
- Southern California Public Health Association
- Southern Nevada Health District
- Spina Bifida Association
- Stop TB USA
- Susan G. Komen

T

- Tahoe Health LLC
- Tigra Pharmaceuticals
- Trinity Health
- Trust for America's Health

U

- Union for Reform Judaism
- Unite Us
- University of Maryland School of Public Health
- University of Washington School of Public Health
- Unmarried, Single But Not Alone, LLC
- Utah Public Health Association

V

- Vermont Public Health Association

W

- Washington State Board of Health
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Washoe County Health District
- Wayne State University
- Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
- Wisconsin Public Health Association
- Women's Health Institute
- Wyoming Public Health Association
- WSALPHO

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