

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act Background

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act 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

The Public Health Infrastructure Saves Lives Act Summary

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

- The siloed, disease-specific nature of public health funding has left very little investment in cross-cutting infrastructure and workforce, resulting in outdated, understaffed public health departments.
- State and local health departments need an additional [80,000 full-time equivalent staff](#) to provide essential public health services.
- 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.
- [Nearly half of state and local public health employees left their jobs between 2017 and 2021](#), exacerbating an existing workforce shortage and causing a critical lack of skills and experience that puts communities at risk.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dara Lieberman, TFAH Director of Government Relations, dliberman@tfah.org

Supporting Organizations

A

- America Walks
- American Academy of Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Association on Health and Disability
- The American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)
- American Heart Association
- American Lung Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Sexual Health Association
- American Society for Microbiology
- American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- American Trauma Society
- 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 State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of State Public Health Nutritionists (ASPHN)

B

- Big Cities Health Coalition
- Bipartisan Policy Center
- Buffalo Trace District Health Department

C

- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Caring Ambassadors Program
- Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)
- ChangeLab Solutions
- Children's Environmental Health Network
- Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

D

- Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation
- Dorchester County Health Department

E

- Entomological Society of America
- Epilepsy Foundation

F

- The Foundation for Sustainable Communities

G

- George Washington University Cancer Center
- Gerontological Society of America

H

- Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
- Healthy Teen Network
- HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
- HIV Medicine Association

I

- Illinois Public Health Association
- Indiana Public Health Association
- Infectious Diseases Society of America
- Institute for Public Health Innovation

K

- Kids and Car Safety

L

- Lakeshore Foundation
- Liver Health Initiative
- Louisiana Public Health Organization
- Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.

M

- Maine Public Health Association
- March of Dimes
- Maryland Public Health Association
- Maternal and Child Health Access
- Mel Leaman Free Clinic
- Missouri Center for Public Health Excellence
- Montgomery County Department of Health

N

- National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
- National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
- National Association of Chronic Disease Directors
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National League for Nursing
- National Network of Public Health Institutes
- National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
- National Safety Council
- National WIC Association
- Network for Public Health Law
- Nevada Public Health Association
- New Progressive Alliance

- New York State Public Health Association

P

- Peggy Lillis Foundation
- Prevent Blindness
- Prevention Institute
- Public Health Foundation

R

- Resolve to Save Lives

S

- Safe States Alliance
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange Healthcare Foundation
- Society for Advancement of Injury and Violence Research
- Society for Public Health Education
- Southern Nevada Health District
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Stop TB USA

T

- Tennessee Public Health Association
- Trust for America's Health

U

- Urban Baby Beginnings

V

- Vaccinate Your Family

W

- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Washington State Public Health Association
- Washoe County Health District

To add your organization to the list for the 118th, fill out this [form](#).