



**National Center for Environmental Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
FY 2026 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026 President's Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 TFAH</b>
National Center for Environmental Health	\$246,850,000	N/A	N/A	\$420,850, ,000

**Background:** CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) works to protect the nation from dangerous problems in the environment, including hazards in the air and water, toxic substances, lead poisoning, and extreme weather. NCEH conducts research in the laboratory and field, investigates impacts of environmental exposures, and helps in responses to natural, technologic, humanitarian, and terrorism-related environmental emergencies. NCEH funding is a critical resource for states and localities as they work to protect residents from existing hazards and respond in real-time to emerging threats.

**Impact:** NCEH programming benefits the health, productivity, and well-being of countless Americans. Some examples of critical programs at NCEH include:

- **National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network:** The National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (Tracking Program) works with a network of partners to collect, integrate, and analyze disease and environmental data to help public health and other practitioners identify and target health risks. Since its launch in 2002, the program has yielded a return on investment of \$1.44 per \$1.00 invested in healthcare savings, and 33 state and local grantees have taken over 700 data-driven actions to improve health.
- **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:** The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program supports grants to all 50 states and 10 localities to prevent childhood lead exposure before any harm occurs. These funds allow state and local programs to conduct surveillance to determine the extent of childhood lead poisoning, identify lead hazards in communities, educate the public and health care providers about lead poisoning, and ensure that lead-exposed children received needed medical and environmental follow-up services.
- **Division of Laboratory Sciences (DLS) and National Biomonitoring Network:** This funding allows state population-based biomonitoring surveillance, which examines the levels of chemical exposures in humans. As new threats emerge, such as polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), this program garners critical information about exposure to chemicals in our everyday lives and during environmental emergencies. DLS provides laboratory science and support to labs across the country that improve the detection, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of environmental, tobacco-related, nutritional, newborn, selected chronic and selected infectious diseases, as well as the rapid and accurate detection of chemical threats, radiologic threats, and selected toxins. For example, CDC's Environmental Health Laboratory led the investigation into the nationwide outbreak of e-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI) that killed 69 people and

hospitalized nearly 3,000. CDC's laboratory developed multiple new laboratory tests for lung fluid from biopsies of impacted people to demonstrate the cause was vitamin E contaminated tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)-containing vaping cartridges, leading to a rapid decrease in life-threatening hospitalizations among young people.

- **National Asthma Control Program (NACP):** It is estimated that more than 25 million Americans currently have asthma, including more than 4.2 million children. This program tracks asthma prevalence, promotes asthma control and prevention, and builds capacity in state programs to save lives from asthma-related complications. NACP funds 29 programs across the country to improve the quality of asthma care, improve asthma management in schools, and reduce asthma triggers. The program has been highly effective: the rate of asthma has increased, yet asthma mortality and morbidity rates have decreased.
- **All Other Environmental Health Activities:** This funding line allows CDC to provide funding and technical assistance to state, tribal, local, and territorial health agencies in advance of environmental exposures and during emergencies. Grant recipients use these funds to reduce the risk of wildfire smoke exposure, detect infectious diseases circulating in a community through wastewater testing, and identify unusual occurrences of pediatric cancer and potential environmental exposures. This funding supported NCEH's response to the East Palestine, OH train derailment, Hurricane Helene, and multiple wildfires.

**Recommendation:** Funding NCEH at a level of \$420.85 million will allow CDC to take both preventive and responsive action to chemical hazards, extreme weather events, and other dangers both naturally occurring and manmade. It will also expand programs such as Environmental Health Tracking and Asthma to cover all 50 states. Relying solely on our health care system to tackle risks that occur outside the walls of the clinic is a costly and ineffective solution. However, adequate investments today and into the future in core environmental health activities can be a critical down payment on the health, productivity, and well-being of countless Americans.