



**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
FY 2027 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027 President's Request	FY 2027 TFAH
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	N/A	\$32,500,000

Recommendation: Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) recommends the Committee provide \$32.5 million in FY 2027 to continue the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) groundbreaking work focused on reducing adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). This funding would enable CDC to expand innovative ACEs surveillance and prevention activities to every state in the United States. The funding would also address the large demand for this novel and important work and provide critical investments in primary prevention of the more than 40 negative behavioral health outcomes associated with ACEs.

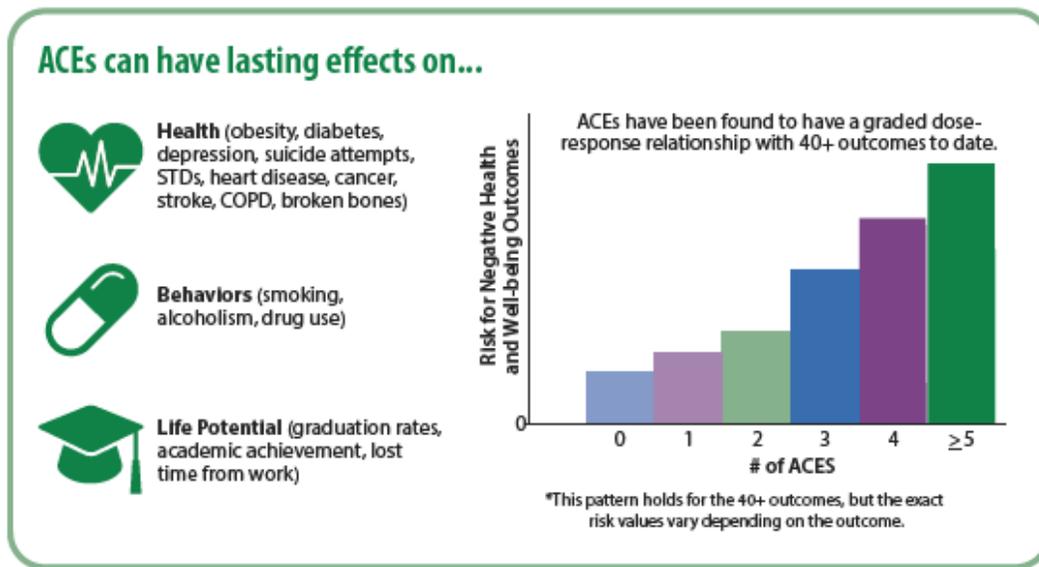
Background: ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood such as neglect, experiencing or witnessing violence, or having a family member attempt or die by suicide. ACEs also include aspects of a child’s environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as living in a household where a parent or caregiver is negatively affected by substance use or an ongoing mental health condition. ACEs can have long-lasting effects on an individual’s health and opportunity. CDC research finds that as the number of ACEs an individual experiences increases, the risk for chronic illnesses and negative physical health outcomes (e.g. asthma, diabetes, childhood and adult obesity, and cancer), and behavioral health challenges (e.g. anxiety, depression, substance misuse, and suicide) across the lifespan also increases.¹ Prevention of ACEs could have significant benefits: CDC estimates that the prevention of ACEs could avoid 21 million cases of depression and 1.9 million cases of heart disease, in addition to a range of other chronic diseases among adults.² Additionally, the estimated societal cost of ACE-related poor health in the United States is \$2.4 million per

¹ Vital Signs, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 23, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html#:~:text=ACEs%20are%20linked%20to%20chronic,cancer%2C%20and%20diabetes%20in%20adulthood>. (accessed March 18, 2025)

Surveillance System, 2011–2020,” Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 72(26):707-715, June 30, 2023.

² Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html (accessed February 28, 2025).

affected person—and is even higher for those with multiple ACEs.³ This equates to \$183 billion annually in direct medical spending, due to the ACE-related health conditions.⁴



Source: CDC, *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*⁵

Impact: The CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center) is a national leader in ACEs prevention and mitigation efforts. CDC pioneered the original ACEs research in the 1990s in partnership with Kaiser Permanente—administering childhood experience surveys with over 17,000 Health Maintenance Organization members.⁶ CDC has been a critical leader in the field of childhood adversity and its impacts on negative health and well-being outcomes ever since. The Injury Center’s funding and expertise continues to support states and local communities across the country in tracking and combating ACEs through research and initiatives including Preventing ACEs Training Modules—which help individuals understand their role in preventing ACEs within their communities. CDC takes a comprehensive approach to preventing ACEs and their negative impacts by building the evidence base through supporting innovative research and evaluation, promoting data innovation, and identifying strategies and building capacity to prevent ACEs across the country.⁷ In 2019, CDC released *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*, a collection of

³ Peterson C, Aslam MV, Niolon PH, Bacon S, Bellis MA, Mercy JA et al. Economic burden of health conditions associated with adverse childhood experiences among US adults, December 6, 2023.

⁴ Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. In Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Violence Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/aces/about/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html (accessed February 28, 2025).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *About the CDC-Kaiser ACE Study.* Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html#:~:text=Kaiser%20ACE%20Study-.About%20the%20CDC%2DKaiser%20ACE%20Study,current%20health%20status%20and%20behaviors.> (accessed February 25, 2026).

⁷ *Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Strategy FY2021-FY2024.* Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, September 2020. <https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&p=9edb5fedac87b38bc4ada15cd02d161f2e748919593eea53a754037a2f152a5bJmltdHM9MTc0MDcwMDgwMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=4&fclid=108c6061-cc65-61cf-30ce-75e9cd5a6031&psq=Adverse+Childhood+Experiences+Prevention+Strategy+FY2021-FY2024&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9zdGFja3MuY2RjLmdvdj92aWV3L2NkYy8xMDgxODMvY2RjXzEwODE4M19EUzEucGRm&ntb=1> (accessed February 28, 2025).

strategies and approaches for states and communities, based on the best available evidence for preventing ACEs and mitigating their consequences.⁸

In 2023, CDC launched Essentials for Childhood: Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences through Data to Action (PACE:D2A). These programs were designed to build statewide capacity to collect and learn from ACEs data, implement strategies to prevent ACEs from occurring, and use data to inform prevention and intervention actions. Using CDC PACE:D2A funding, the Michigan Public Health Institute, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services, launched a public education campaign to improve awareness and understanding of ACEs. The state also integrated ACEs prevention into the Michigan Home Visiting Initiative's care plan to help ensure a strong start for children and identify populations with the highest need for supports and services.⁹ In another example, the Georgia Department of Public Health implemented ACEs-specific surveillance activities, and is using data from the Georgia Student Health Survey to look at ACEs indicators and risk factors among youth across the state.¹⁰ In addition, Kansas Power of the Positive is a statewide coalition coordinated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, that has implemented family friendly workplace policies and practices (including employee wellness and predictable work schedules) to prevent ACEs and child maltreatment.¹¹

CDC has also provided funding to Tribes and Tribal organizations, including the Chickasaw Nation, to increase capacity to collect ACEs data and use this information to inform prevention efforts. Specifically, the Chickasaw Nation has utilized this funding to develop a workshop series, designed to bolster awareness and community member engagement in efforts to prevent and mitigate ACEs. More than 320 community members have participated across 12 workshops organized by the Chickasaw Nation.

Increased funding for CDC's innovative work would:

- **Expand work to additional sites.** In 2025, CDC funded 12 recipients, including public health organizations in 11 states and one Tribal nation, to implement ACEs prevention strategies as part of the Essentials for Childhood: Preventing ACEs through Data to Action program. There was great interest in the 2025 grant announcement, with more than 30 applicants. Increased funding in FY27 would provide an opportunity to fund new recipients or maintain support to existing recipients.
- **Build and sustain understanding of ACEs.** Recipients of CDC funding will build or enhance awareness, analysis, and application of ACEs-related data. These activities will directly inform and tailor ACEs prevention activities in communities.
- **Implement comprehensive strategies.** Through the support of CDC experts and funding, 39 jurisdictions (30 states, 7 localities, 1 tribal nation, 1 territory) have now collected core ACEs data among teens. With stronger data, funded recipients will improve their understanding of the burden of ACEs in their communities and engage in proven strategies to prevent ACEs through engagement with multi-sector partners.

⁸ *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Prevention: Resource for Action*. Atlanta: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019. https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ACEs-Prevention-Resource_508.pdf (accessed December 14, 2023).

⁹ CDC Injury Center, Michigan Funding Priorities, August 29, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/budget-funding/michigan.html> (accessed March 18, 2025).

¹⁰ CDC Injury Center, Georgia Funding Priorities, August 29, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/budget-funding/georgia.html> (accessed March 18, 2025).

¹¹ Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Essential for Childhood, <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/1211/Kansas-Essentials-for-Childhood> (accessed March 18, 2025).