



**National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
FY 2027 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill**

| | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 President's Budget | FY2027 TFAH |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| National Center for Environmental Health | \$246,850,000 | \$246,850,000 | N/A | \$420,850,000 |

Recommendation: Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) recommends the Committee fund the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) at \$420.85 million in FY 2027. This funding level will allow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its grantees 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 the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network and the National Asthma Control Program to cover all 50 states. Relying solely on our health care system to treat people for exposure to environmental hazards is a costly and ineffective approach. However, adequate investments in core environmental health activities can be a critical down payment on the health, productivity, and well-being of countless Americans.

Background: NCEH works with public, private, and nonprofit partners across the country 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 and expertise are a critical resource for states and localities as they work to protect residents from existing hazards and respond in real-time to emerging threats. NCEH worked to protect the nation’s health by responding to wildfire smoke exposure during the January 2025 California Wildfires, monitoring and responding to continued health issues stemming from the 2023 East Palestine, OH train derailment and 2024 Conyers laboratory fire.

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

- **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. In addition, DLS addresses the rapid and accurate detection of chemical threats, radiologic threats, and selected toxins alongside the FBI to respond to dozens of suspected anthrax samples each year. DLS also measured exposures to per - and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and flame retardants, and metals in firefighters during the 2023 Maui wildfires; dioxins in residents near the 2023 East Palestine, OH train derailments; and lead and copper in children exposed to

contaminated water in the U.S Virgin Islands in 2024.

- **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. The Tracking Network's Data Explorer tool had roughly 2 million views so far in 2025, informing the actions of wildfire and health responses. The Tracking Network also recently developed simulation software that has identified major gaps in planning for radiation emergencies, with state-led tests finding that the CDC simulation had a 96% predictive accuracy while most other current models only have 70% accuracy.
- **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 children with lead exposure received needed medical and environmental follow-up services.
- **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 in aiding in decreased asthma mortality and morbidity rates.
- **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, analyze information on infectious disease 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.