

Support the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

States Need Flexibility Responding to Public Health Priorities



For more than 30 years, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (the Prevent Block Grant) has served as an essential source of federal funding for state and territorial health agencies. The Prevent Block Grant allows each state to respond to its own distinct health priorities and needs—a must for keeping states and communities healthy and safe.

Unfortunately, funding for the Prevent Block Grant is currently in jeopardy. Annual appropriations for the Prevent Block Grant come from the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a program in the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Prevent Block Grant may be eliminated by default in congressional efforts to repeal the ACA. In addition to the Prevent Block Grant, several other key programs that support state and territorial public health agencies could also be eliminated in the ACA repeal, including funding for public health services, such as:

- Childhood immunization.
- Epidemiology and laboratory capacity program.
- Tobacco prevention.
- Chronic disease prevention.
- Lead poisoning prevention.

Targeting Resources Where State Need is Greatest

Programs funded by the Prevent Block Grant cannot be adequately supported or expanded through other funding mechanisms. States and territories use the flexible dollars provided by the grant to offset funding gaps and caps in other programs that address the leading causes of death and disability in their jurisdictions. Approximately 25 percent of Prevent Block Grant funds support critical investments that strengthen the ability of state health agencies to respond to public health threats. The majority of funds are used to address critical public health needs, such as:

- Preventing of chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.
- Providing state emergency medical services.
- Collecting vital statistics and health data.
- Monitoring and preventing of Healthcare Associated Infections and infectious disease outbreaks.

Support State Flexibility

ASTHO urges continued support for the Prevent Block Grant which has provided states the flexibility they need for over three decades. This flexible funding allows states to shift funding to the public health priorities that are most important in their particular jurisdictions. However, with budget cuts already occurring at the federal and state level, this flexible funding is more important today than ever before.



Fiscal Year 2016 Allocation by Grantee

Grantee (State or Territory)	Total Award
Alabama	\$2,461,604
Alaska	\$538,445
American Samoa	\$82,851
Arizona	\$1,850,948
Arkansas	\$1,384,158
California	\$10,542,099
Colorado	\$1,919,186
Connecticut	\$2,250,001
Delaware	\$287,610
District of Columbia	\$1,209,371
Federated States of Micronesia	\$99,485
Florida	\$4,614,014
Georgia	\$4,795,453
Guam	\$344,387
Hawaii	\$1,218,233
Idaho	\$576,058
Illinois	\$3,602,710
Indiana	\$2,592,701
Iowa	\$1,702,233
Kansas	\$1,409,007
Kentucky	\$2,076,024
Louisiana	\$4,524,804
Maine	\$1,392,368
Marshall Islands	\$40,645
Maryland	\$2,920,078
Massachusetts	\$4,210,887
Michigan	\$6,113,073
Minnesota	\$3,932,953
Mississippi	\$2,261,069
Missouri	\$3,869,539

Grantee (State or Territory)	Total Award
Montana	\$1,032,403
N. Mariana Islands	\$62,251
Nebraska	\$2,553,275
Nevada	\$608,558
New Hampshire	\$2,231,276
New Jersey	\$4,470,678
New Mexico	\$2,191,126
New York	\$10,653,041
North Carolina	\$4,260,951
North Dakota	\$395,845
Ohio	\$7,013,936
Oklahoma	\$1,449,458
Oregon	\$1,110,980
Pennsylvania	\$7,390,984
Puerto Rico	\$2,422,700
Republic of Palau	\$33,053
Rhode Island	\$736,138
South Carolina	\$1,906,505
South Dakota	\$359,896
Tennessee	\$2,513,815
Texas	\$6,288,485
Utah	\$1,499,882
Vermont	\$423,511
Virgin Islands	\$271,642
Virginia	\$3,154,223
Washington	\$1,549,477
West Virginia	\$1,393,345
Wisconsin	\$3,031,233
Wyoming	\$353,703
Total	\$146,277,574

Source: CDC. "National Allocation of Funds for Healthy People 2020." Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/allocation.htm>. Accessed on: 2-27-17.