The Big Cities Health Coalition (BCHC) is a forum for the leaders of America’s largest metropolitan health departments to exchange strategies and jointly address issues to promote and protect the health and safety of their residents. Collectively, BCHC’s 30 member jurisdictions directly impact nearly 62 million people, or one in five Americans.

BCHC’s mission is advancing equity and health for present and future generations. Our vision is healthy, more equitable communities through big city innovation and leadership. Visit www.bigcitieshealth.org to learn more about the Coalition.

To improve the health of urban America, it is critical that federal dollars flow through the states, at a minimum, but ideally, directly to localities that are most in need.

**KEY POLICY PRIORITIES**

- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**
  Federal funding must place an emphasis on primary prevention, not just responding to the current crises that include opioids, methamphetamine, cocaine, and other drugs. It is critical that dollars get local. Further, localities and states should be free to experiment with innovative policy and practice related to SUD without the threat of federal prosecution.

- **Tobacco Flavor Regulation**
  Empower the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to explore additional flavor restrictions on all tobacco products, including all menthol and other flavors, through both administrative and, as necessary, legislative action.

- **Public Health Emergency Fund**
  Authorize and fund a public health emergency fund to allow jurisdictions to immediately access federal dollars in a public health emergency or disaster rather than waiting on supplemental dollars to be appropriated down the road.

- **Injury and Violence Prevention**
  Increase resources to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by extension, local communities, to support innovative practice and data collection at all levels of government as it relates to violence and injury prevention. This includes authorizing programs to address the epidemic of violence at the local level; continue to promote common sense gun laws to protect communities; and continuing to invest in and expand local data systems, particularly as it relates to violence and injury.

- **Public Health Workforce**
  Support CDC’s fellowship and training programs that fill critical gaps in the public health workforce, provide on-the-job training, and provide continuing education and training for the public health workforce. The Public Health Associate Program also places CDC-trained staff in the field in a number of big city health departments. Further, Congress should invest in the workforce by implementing a loan repayment program for those who agree to serve two years in a local, state, or tribal health department.
**BCHC Appropriations Priorities for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in FY2021**

Much CDC funding gets passed through to states and localities. Below are important program areas that fund public health activities in communities across the nation.

- **Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity** Support disease detection in communities across the country.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding (PHEP)** Support preparedness activities in local and state health departments across the country that build capacity to prevent, protect, and respond to public health emergencies.
- **Office of Smoking and Health** Support activities to stem the tide of e-cigarette use among youth.
- **317 Immunization Program** Support health department infrastructure to provide vaccines for those most in need and address vaccine hesitancy.
- **Gun Violence Research** Support firearm prevention research to address gun violence as a public health crisis.
- **Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance** Support local and state health departments with resources and support to advance interventions for preventing drug overdoses.
- **Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program** Increase funding to expand from 23 states to all 50 states, U.S. territories, and D.C. This is the only program in the nation that implements, evaluates, and expands strategies to reduce pressing injury and violence challenges at the state level.
- **Surveillance Systems** Invest in local data systems that allow real time measurement of key indicators related to violence, substance misuse, and the social determinants of health. BCHC supports the Data: Elemental to Health Campaign to modernize public health data systems at all levels of government.

Increase funding to CDC by **22% by 2022** to support infrastructure at CDC, as well as local and state public health activities in communities.

For more information, contact Chrissie Juliano at c juliano@bigcitieshealth.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area</th>
<th>FY2021 Appropriations Priorities for the CDC in Millions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding (PHEP)</td>
<td>$824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Smoking and Health</td>
<td>$310</td>
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<td>317 Immunization Program</td>
<td>$711</td>
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<td>Gun Violence Research</td>
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<td>Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Data and Surveillance/IT Systems</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Center for Injury Prevention and Control</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDC Overall</td>
<td>$8.3 billion</td>
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</tbody>
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