

## **The Affordable Care Act and the Prevention and Public Health Fund Report to Congress for FY2013**

### **Introduction**

The Affordable Care Act established the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) to provide expanded and sustained national investments in prevention and public health, to improve health outcomes, and to enhance health care quality. To date, the Prevention Fund has invested in a broad range of evidence-based activities including community and clinical prevention initiatives; research, surveillance and tracking; public health infrastructure; immunizations and screenings; tobacco prevention; and public health workforce and training. Section 220 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY 2012 (P.L. 112-74) directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS, the Department) to establish a publicly accessible website to provide information on the use of funds made available through the Prevention and Public Health Fund authorized in the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148). Section 220 requires a report detailing the uses of all funds transferred under section 4002(c) during the fiscal year, to be posted not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. These requirements were continued by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013. This report fulfills the requirement to make available an annual report on the use of all funds.

### **Background**

Chronic diseases – such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes – are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year and account for 75 percent of the nation’s health spending. Chronic diseases and their underlying causes affect more than 130 million Americans, nearly half the population. Racial and ethnic minority communities experience higher rates of obesity, cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. In particular, children are increasingly vulnerable. Today, almost one in every three children in our nation is overweight or obese which predisposes them to chronic disease. The numbers are even higher in African American and Hispanic communities, where nearly 40 percent of the children are overweight or obese.

Many experts agree that an emphasis on prevention and public health interventions has the potential to improve the health of Americans. According to a 2012 Institute of Medicine report, “For the Public’s Health: Investing in a Healthier Future,” an estimated 80 percent of cases of heart disease and of type-2 diabetes and 40 percent of cases of cancer could be prevented by implementing public health interventions that increase physical activity and healthy eating and help reduce tobacco use and excessive alcohol use. By concentrating on the causes of chronic disease, the Affordable Care Act helps move the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on wellness and prevention.

Studies have also shown that insurance coverage can lead to better health.<sup>1,2</sup> It helps people obtain the primary care, preventive services, prescription drugs and mental health services they need to stay healthy, prevent disease before it starts or stop it from worsening. Those who are uninsured are less likely to get recommended screenings (e.g. mammograms and colonoscopies) or have a regular source of care, and generally have poorer control of chronic conditions such as hypertension.<sup>3,4</sup> New coverage options available in the Marketplaces will increase access to preventive care and help improve health outcomes for the millions of individuals who will be able to enroll in affordable health plans. Assisting these individuals in gaining affordable health care aligns with the purpose of the Prevention Fund - to support the necessary infrastructure to prevent disease, detect it early, and manage conditions before they become severe, and help states and communities promote healthy living.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pnhp.org/excessdeaths/health-insurance-and-mortality-in-US-adults.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2003/Care-Without-Coverage-Too-Little-Too-Late/Uninsured2FINAL.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2775760/#!po=45.8333>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/reformhealthcare\\_IB1.pdf](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/reformhealthcare_IB1.pdf)

## **Process for Prevention Fund Allocation**

The Affordable Care Act states that the purpose of the Prevention Fund is for an “expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs that will improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public sector health care costs.” The Prevention Fund is a funding source for new and existing HHS programs that meet this purpose. As part of the annual budget process, HHS proposes a budget that funds high-performing programs, eliminates duplicative and ineffective programs, and ensures investments are coordinated across agencies and funding sources. The allocation for the Prevention Fund is part of this process, which allows HHS to ensure that investments from the Prevention Fund coordinate with and are not duplicative of existing programs in HHS.

Because of the availability of Prevention Fund resources, public health organizations, state and local health departments, schools and other educational institutions, tribal organizations, as well as community and faith-based organizations have received the much-needed financial support for initiatives focused on tobacco cessation, obesity prevention, health coverage enrollment assistance, and increasing the primary care and public health workforce. Programs vary in approach, but depending on the specific program, factors considered in funding may include population size, burden of disease, percentage of uninsured, and ability to reduce health disparities and/or achieve positive health outcomes.

The Department continues to engage in constructive dialogue within the Administration, Congress, and stakeholders on specific, high-impact and evidence-based investments that can make a difference in the health of Americans. By investing in state and local public health capacity and community efforts to implement proven prevention programs, investments made possible by the Prevention Fund can make a significant impact on the leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

## **Prevention Fund Overview**

Through the Prevention Fund, the Affordable Care Act works to address factors that influence our health. The historic creation of the Prevention Fund marks the first time ongoing dedicated funding for public health has been provided by federal law.

In FY 2010, \$500 million of the Prevention Fund was distributed to states and communities to boost prevention and public health efforts, improve health, enhance health care quality, and foster the next generation of primary health professionals. In FY 2011 and FY 2012, \$750 million and \$1 billion of the Prevention Fund, respectively, built on the initial investment and expanded opportunities to improve community health, strengthen public health capacity in state and local health departments, and improve public health research and tracking to better address public health concerns.

In FY 2013, a total of \$949 million was available to HHS after accounting for sequestration and the enactment of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which revised the amount of funding available for the Prevention Fund beginning in FY 2013. A summary of activities funded in FY 2013 is included below.

**Community Prevention:** Funding supports prevention activities to improve health and reduce chronic disease risk factors.

## **Community and State Prevention**

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Public Health Improvement Initiative funds health departments to improve the delivery and impact of the public health services they provide by fostering the identification, dissemination and adoption of public health’s most promising practices; improving how they track the performance of their programs; building a network of performance improvement managers across the country that share strategies

for improving the public health system; and maximizing cohesion across state and community public health systems to enable coordinated services for residents.

- CDC continued to support state and local government agencies, tribes and territories, nonprofit organizations, neighborhoods, school districts, villages, towns, cities, and counties through the Community Transformation Grant program. Grantees have worked to reduce tobacco use, increase access to diabetes management and immunizations, increase access to healthier foods options, and improve levels of physical activity.
- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) awarded funds to support chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) programs. This included grants to states and one National Resource Center to strengthen and expand integrated, sustainable service systems to provide evidence-based CDSME programs. The state awardees, who are either state units on aging or state public health departments, are working with a variety of partners including other state government agencies, health systems, local public health departments, area agencies on aging, faith-based organizations, tribal entities, Centers for Independent Living, minority organizations, senior centers, libraries, senior housing programs and other community agencies.

### **Tobacco Use Prevention**

- CDC continued the nationwide media campaign to increase awareness of the risks of smoking and to encourage smokers to quit, and continued support for and enhanced the capacity of state telephone-based tobacco cessation services. An estimated 1.6 million smokers attempted to quit smoking because of CDC's initial "Tips From Former Smokers" national ad campaign. As a result of the 2012 campaign, more than 200,000 Americans immediately quit smoking. Researchers estimated that more than 100,000 of the 200,000 will likely quit smoking permanently. A second set of ads aired in 2013.

### **Obesity Prevention and Fitness**

- CDC funds supported population-, practice-, and evidence-based strategies and interventions to improve health and wellness, reduce chronic disease risk factors, build capacity for prevention efforts, enhance the evidence base for chronic disease prevention strategies, and address the social, economic, environmental, and individual factors that influence weight status in a variety of settings, including early child care facilities, workplaces, schools, communities, and health care facilities.

**Clinical Prevention:** Funding supports programs to improve Americans' access to important preventive services and the care necessary to meet diverse healthcare needs.

### **Access to Critical Wellness and Preventive Health Services**

- CDC funds increased awareness of and expanded access to preventive health and wellness programs in a variety of settings, including immunization programs for uninsured and underinsured children, adolescents, and adults; cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention programs such as *Million Hearts*®; maternal and child wellness programs; and diabetes prevention programs.
- ACL continued to fund activities to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease. Funds were used to deploy a Public Service Announcement campaign to connect people caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease to government and non-government programs/services through the [alzheimers.gov](http://alzheimers.gov) website. The campaign is one of the goals outlined in the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

**Public Health Infrastructure and Training:** These efforts help state and local health departments meet 21st century challenges.

### **Public Health Workforce**

- CDC continued its support for the expansion of applied epidemiology and laboratory fellowships to help develop a prepared, diverse, and sustainable public health workforce through professional development and public health work experience.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) expanded the work of its 45 Geriatric Education Centers to support interprofessional education and training to enhance healthcare providers' knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The training activities were provided to both primary care and allied health providers, focused on improved detection and early intervention and improved care for people with the disease and their caregivers.

### **Detection and Response Capacity**

- CDC funded state, local, and territorial programs and initiatives working across the healthcare system to maximize healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention efforts and strengthen and integrate capacity for detecting, tracking, and responding to infectious diseases and other public health threats. CDC continued to support health departments in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico that have implemented HAI prevention initiatives through program development and implementation.

### **Environmental Hazard Monitoring**

- CDC supported the expansion and maintenance of the Environmental and Health Outcome Tracking Network to collect, integrate, analyze and translate health and environmental data for use in public health practice.

### **Health Insurance Enrollment Support**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) assisted individuals with accessing and enrolling in affordable health care through the Health Insurance Marketplace. This assistance was critical to ensuring individuals who were previously uninsured and unfamiliar with how to enroll in coverage were able to do so for the first time, allowing them access to preventive services.
- CMS created infrastructure for in-person assistance to individuals applying for coverage through the Federally-facilitated Marketplace. Over 100 entities received grants to set up Navigator programs, which reach out to underserved communities and provide face-to-face assistance with the application process. Additionally, CMS established an Enrollment Assistance Program, and recruited in-person enrollment staff in targeted cities with high proportions of uninsured younger individuals.
- CMS also funded public education and outreach for the initial open enrollment period, including a targeted Hispanic Health Insurance Marketplace outreach plan, to increase awareness among the uninsured.

**Public Health Research and Data Collection:** These programs support the scientific study of prevention to better understand how to translate research into practice.

### **Prevention Research**

- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provided funds for scientific, technical and administrative support to maximize the quality and effectiveness of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

- CDC continued support for its Prevention Research Centers program. This effort directs a national network of 37 academic research centers, at either a school of public health or a medical school that has a preventive medicine residency program. The centers are committed to conducting prevention research and are leaders in translating research results into policy and public health practice. These centers have rich capacity for the community-based, participatory prevention research needed to drive the major community changes that can prevent and control chronic diseases.
- ACL supported secondary and tertiary prevention interventions to help older adults and adults with disabilities who experience abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This effort helps to implement the Elder Justice Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. These prevention projects will build on research and promising practices and improve data collection systems to more effectively address this public health issue.

### **Health Care Data Analysis and Planning**

- CDC investments continued support for the expansion of data collection and availability for tracking the provision, use, effectiveness, and impact of primary and secondary preventive healthcare services. Investments continued the CDC-facilitated Community Guide by supporting the Task Force on Community Preventive Services' efforts to identify and disseminate evidence-based recommendations on important public health challenges to inform practitioners, educators, and other decision makers.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) supported activities related to the behavioral health surveillance systems, including the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, which provides national and state-level data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drugs and mental health in the United States and is used to help inform various prevention efforts. SAMHSA also supported a Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting effort to provide for the collection, analysis, and evaluation of data related to the SAMHSA's substance abuse prevention programs. It also supported the Community Early Warning and Monitoring System, an Inter-Agency agreement between SAMHSA and the Department of Agriculture to develop a strategy for gaining a baseline understanding of the behavioral health status of communities and subsequently developing behavioral health indicators.

### **Conclusion**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services takes a broad approach to addressing the health and well-being of our communities. The health of Americans is influenced by where Americans live, work, play, and go to school; therefore, many Federal agencies have a role in shaping the improved health of the country.

The National Prevention Council, established by the Affordable Care Act, and composed of senior officials across the government, is an important opportunity to elevate and coordinate prevention activities in order to attain the goals put forth in the National Prevention Strategy (Strategy), a focused effort across Departments to promote the nation's health. In addition, both the Prevention Fund and the Strategy align with Healthy People 2020 (HP2020). HP2020 contains the nation's health objectives over a broad range of health priorities. The Strategy identifies priority recommendations that all sectors can implement to meet prevention and wellness goals, such as healthy and safe community environments and tobacco-free living, which align with the objectives of HP2020.

Furthermore, the Strategy is a national strategy. The Presidentially-appointed Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health brings a non-Federal perspective to the Strategy's policy and program recommendations and to its implementation. Involvement and support

from other partners at the state and local levels as well as the private sector is key to the Strategy's successful implementation.

Efforts like the Prevention Fund and the National Prevention Council promote prevention at the federal level and in states and communities across the country to help Americans lead healthier lives.

FY 2013 Prevention and Public Health Fund Allocation  
(dollars in millions)

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Activity or Program</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
<b>ACL</b>	Chronic Disease Self-Management Program	<b>7.086</b>	To award competitive grants to selected states to provide access to evidence-based chronic disease self-management programs to older adults and adults with disabilities.
<b>ACL</b>	Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Education and Outreach	<b>0.150</b>	To continue an Alzheimer's education campaign, including for people caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia and to operate and update alzheimers.gov website.
<b>ACL</b>	Elder Justice	<b>2.000</b>	To assess best practices in the prevention and intervention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
<b>AHRQ</b>	Clinical Preventive Services Task Force	<b>6.465</b>	To maximize the quality and effectiveness of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force by providing scientific, technical and administrative support.
<b>CDC</b>	Community Guide	<b>7.378</b>	To provide evidence-based findings and recommendations about effective public health interventions and policies to improve health and promote safety.
<b>CDC</b>	Prevention Research Centers	<b>15.279</b>	To support prevention research related to individual behaviors and community environmental factors that put people at risk for the leading causes of death and disability—chronic diseases, such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes.
<b>CDC</b>	Public Health Workforce	<b>15.609</b>	To help to ensure a prepared, diverse, and sustainable public health workforce by increasing the number of State and local public health professionals (e.g., epidemiologists, public health managers, informaticians) who are trained through CDC-sponsored fellowships and other training activities targeted at the existing workforce.
<b>CDC</b>	National Public Health Improvement Initiative (NPHII)	<b>21.663</b>	To systematically increase the capacity of public health departments to detect and respond to public health events requiring highly coordinated interventions to improve and/or sustain the performance (efficiency/effectiveness) of public health organizations, systems, practices, and essential services.
<b>CDC</b>	State Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention	<b>11.750</b>	To fund health departments in healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention efforts within their States by expanding State prevention activities and accelerating electronic reporting to detect HAIs at the state level.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Activity or Program</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Funded Activities</b>
<b>CDC</b>	Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC/EIP)	<b>32.424</b>	To enhance the ability of state, local, and territorial Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity and Emerging Infections Program grantees to strengthen and integrate capacity for detecting and responding to infectious diseases and other public health threats.
<b>CDC</b>	Breastfeeding Promotion and Support	<b>2.500</b>	To fund community initiatives to support breastfeeding mothers and support hospitals in promoting breastfeeding.
<b>CDC</b>	Early Child Care and Education Obesity Prevention Programs	<b>4.000</b>	To support a collaborative effort to promote children's health by encouraging and supporting healthier physical activity and nutrition practices.
<b>CDC</b>	Community Transformation Grants	<b>146.340</b>	To support community-level efforts to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.
<b>CDC</b>	Immunization	<b>90.883</b>	To improve the public health immunization infrastructure in order to maintain and increase vaccine coverage among children, adolescents, and adults.
<b>CDC</b>	Tobacco Use Prevention	<b>60.302</b>	To raise awareness about the harms of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in areas of the country with some of the highest rates of tobacco use prevalence.
<b>CDC</b>	Healthcare Surveillance/ Health Statistics	<b>28.514</b>	To expand the availability of data for tracking the provision, use, effectiveness, and impact of primary and secondary preventive healthcare services and to expand the capacity of CDC and its health department partners to use these data.
<b>CDC</b>	Environmental Public Health Tracking	<b>20.740</b>	To establish and maintain a nationwide tracking network to collect, integrate, analyze and translate health and environmental data for use in public health practice.
<b>CDC</b>	National Prevention Strategy	<b>0.922</b>	To support and implement the National Prevention Strategy which aims to guide our nation in the most effective and achievable means for improving health and well-being.
<b>CDC</b>	Million Hearts®Program	<b>4.612</b>	To improve cardiovascular disease and stroke prevention by promoting medication management and adherence strategies and improving the ability to track blood pressure and cholesterol controls.
<b>HRSA</b>	Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Education and Outreach	<b>1.847</b>	To expand the work of Geriatric Education Centers to support outreach and education to enhance healthcare providers' knowledge of the disease, improve detection and early intervention, and improve care for people with the disease and their caregivers.
<b>SAMHSA</b>	SAMHSA Health Surveillance	<b>14.733</b>	To support critical behavioral health data systems, national surveys, and surveillance activities.

Agency	Activity or Program	Allocation	Funded Activities
<b>CMS</b>	Health Insurance Enrollment Support	<b>453.803</b>	To invest in health insurance enrollment support such as public education, outreach and in-person assistance, helping many previously uninsured individuals gain coverage, including access to preventive services.
	Sequestered Funds	<b>51.000</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	

**For Additional Information**

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012, Congress directed HHS to provide information on activities and programs supported with resources from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Through the following website, HHS provides information on the planned use of funds, funding opportunities, and the recipients of awards: <http://www.hhs.gov/open/recordsandreports/prevention>. Information is posted as it becomes available.