Local Health Departments Prevent Chronic Disease

Local health departments make it easier for people to be healthy. Much of what keeps people healthy happens outside of the doctor’s office. Local health departments lay the groundwork for healthy choices that keep people from getting sick in the first place.

To support local health department chronic disease activities, NACCHO recommends in FY2015:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
*Figures include Working Capital Fund

Partnerships to Improve Community Health (Community Prevention Grants)
FY2014: $80 million | FY2015 President: $80 million
NACCHO FY2015 Request: $100 million

Partnerships to Improve Community Health provides funding to implement evidence-based chronic disease prevention strategies. Local health departments lead efforts to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity and expand access to nutrition in order to reduce costly chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes.

NACCHO has recommended to CDC that these funds will have the greatest impact by reaching local health departments either directly or through sub-grants.

Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention
FY2014: $130 million | FY2015 President: $130 million
NACCHO FY2015 Request: $130 million

In FY2014, Congress provided a $76 million increase for heart disease and stroke prevention and urged CDC to ensure that some portion of the increase in funding is sub-granted to the local level.

NACCHO has urged CDC to fund all states and to sub-grant a majority of the increase in funding to local health departments who are experts on community needs in the area of heart disease and stroke.

Diabetes Prevention and Control
FY2014: $150 million | FY2015 President: $150 million
NACCHO FY2015 Request: $150 million

In FY2014, Congress provided a $76 million increase for diabetes prevention and control and urged CDC to ensure that some portion of the increase in funding is sub-granted to the local level.

NACCHO has urged CDC to ensure that a majority of the increase in funding is sub-granted to local health departments. Because evidence-based disease self-management programs are effective at improving the health status of individuals diagnosed with diabetes, greater emphasis must be placed on enhancing the reach of these community level interventions.

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Local Health Departments’ Role in Combating Chronic Disease

Local health departments work with a wide range of multi-sector community partners to create conditions and policies that help people make healthy choices, such as avoiding tobacco use, becoming more physically active, and eating healthier foods. All these proactive measures contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases and their risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

Local health departments facilitate evidence-based community interventions to address chronic disease and improve the health of people living in their communities. As an example, they sponsor and host screenings to identify people with chronic diseases and connect them with services and tools to help them manage their diseases.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials is the voice of the approximately 2,800 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

For more information, go to www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/chronicdisease/index.cfm.

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