The Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) is a funding stream primarily dedicated to investments in core public health programs at state and local health departments. The PPHF has supported efforts to combat infectious disease, prevent lead poisoning, detect causes of diseases and injury, and address the leading causes of rising health care costs. Congress must continue to provide this critical funding that protects the public’s health every day. If the PPHF is eliminated or cut, there will be a devastating effect on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local health departments. Since FY2010, the federal government has invested nearly $6.25 billion in state and local core public health programs and innovative programs. In FY2017, the PPHF made up 12% of the CDC’s budget, including more than half of funding for immunization programs.

Local health departments make it easier for people to be healthy and safe and they depend on the PPHF to help the tens of millions of Americans who needlessly suffer from preventable diseases. Here are some examples of PPHF-supported local programs:

- CDC’s Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funded a jail outreach program in Tennessee to teach female inmates about neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and to help them avoid having a baby with NAS. Babies with NAS are born addicted to illegal drugs taken by their mothers while pregnant, which may lead to them suffering from drug withdrawal. Women were connected with local health departments to help them learn about the various types of birth control and provide them with contraception, if they want it. In the first six months of the program, 110 women attended the educational sessions and the number of babies with NAS in one county dropped by over 90%. This has led to the spread of this program to 20 other Tennessee counties.

- The Louisiana Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and a New Orleans area Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) clinic worked together to pilot a blood lead testing program. The pilot program provided testing to 1,395 children. More than 80% of these children had never received blood lead testing before. This program found that testing children during WIC clinic visits was a successful method in screening high-risk children. Child lead testing reportedly increased by 25% between July 2015 and April 2015 as a direct result of the pilot program.

- CDC’s 317 Immunization Program allows for health departments to address vaccine preventable diseases in times of outbreaks. For example, county health departments in California were able to obtain a supply of almost 5,000 doses of the MMR vaccine during the 2015 measles outbreak that started at Disneyland and eventually spread to other states, thus preventing sickness and potentially saving lives.
SECTION 317 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM
FY17: $607 million ($324 million from PPHF)
President’s FY19 Budget: $521 million
NACCHO Request: $650 million
The 317 Immunization Program funds 50 state health departments, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio, and Washington, DC) and eight territories for vaccine purchase for in-need populations and immunization program operations. This include support for implementing billing systems for immunization services at public health clinics to sustain high levels of vaccine coverage. Immunizations continue to be one of the most cost-effective public health interventions.

Epidemiology and Lab Capacity Grants (ELC)
FY17: $195 million ($40 million from PPHF)
President’s FY19 Budget: $155 million
NACCHO Request: $195 million
The ELC grant program is a single grant vehicle for multiple programmatic initiatives that go to 50 state health departments, six large cities (Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles County, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC), Puerto Rico, and the Republic of Palau. ELC grants strengthen local and state capacity to perform critical epidemiology and laboratory work by detecting, tracking, and responding to known infectious disease threats and maintaining capacity to be the nation’s eyes and ears on the ground to detect emerging threats. In FY2016, the CDC awarded $260 million to states, cities, and territories through the ELC grants including $64 million to monitor and control the Zika virus. In FY2017, CDC provided $97 for Zika ELC activities including epidemiologic surveillance and investigation, mosquito control and monitoring, laboratory capacity, and support for participation in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.

CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING/HEALTHY HOMES
FY17: $17 million (all from PPHF)
President’s FY19 Budget: $17 million
NACCHO Request: $35 million
Lead poisoning is still a major public health threat in the United States. Over half a million children have blood lead levels high enough to threaten their health. CDC funds 29 state and six city health departments (Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC) to identify families with harmful exposure to lead, track incidence and causes, inspect homes and remove environmental threats, connect children with appropriate services, and educate the public and healthcare providers.

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
FY17: $160 million (all from PPHF)
President’s FY19 Budget: 0
NACCHO Request: $170 million
The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant is a vital source of funding for state and local public health departments. This unique funding gives states the autonomy and flexibility to solve state problems and provide similar support to local communities while still being held accountable for demonstrating the local, state, and national impact of this investment. States develop health plans and report their activities to CDC.

About NACCHO
The National Association of County and City Health Officials is the voice of more than 3,000 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.

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The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

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