

NACCHO's 2019 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda



NACCHO's mission is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments. The Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda guides NACCHO's work in its interactions with federal agencies and Congress. The agenda features NACCHO's priority issues and is informed by local health department input and approved annually by the Board of Directors.

**Note: items in each section are in alphabetical order, not order of priority.*

NACCHO's Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda recognizes that policy decisions both within and outside the traditional health sphere impact health status. NACCHO urges policymakers at the local, state, and federal level to provide adequate funding for core public health services and safety-net health and human services programs that ensure a healthy and safe population, including healthy food, housing, environment, and access to health care and employment.

Issues for Priority Focus

- **Appropriations in FY2020** for programs within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, which strengthen local health department performance, including the following:
 - » Capacity Building
 - » Chronic disease prevention
 - » Delivery of clinical and community prevention services
 - » Emergency preparedness
 - » Foodborne illness
 - » Substance use prevention and response
 - » Surveillance, prevention, control, and investigation of infectious disease, including immunizations
 - » Workforce continuing education and training

Where appropriate, funding should flow from the federal level to state and local community levels.
- **Continuation at authorized levels for the Prevention and Public Health Fund**, which supports Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Section 317 Immunization Program, Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention, and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
- **Establishment of a Public Health Emergency Fund** to allow immediate access to emergency funding when public health disasters or disease outbreaks occur
- Passage and implementation of the **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act**
- **Policies that support infrastructure and local health department capacity** (in particular, workforce and technology) to participate in health data exchange with health care and human service providers
- **Sufficient federal budget levels to address public health priorities**, including sequestration relief with parity between defense and non-defense budget caps
- Support for local health department involvement in **implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)**, including maintenance of core public health programs authorized and funded by the ACA and clinical and community preventive services supported by the ACA
 - » Any modifications to the ACA should expand rather than limit access to health care services

Issues to Address in Coalition

- **CDC's overall budget** and FY2020 appropriations for programs with impact on local health departments or public health activities, including the following:
 - » CDC environmental health activities
 - » CDC infectious disease prevention and control funding, including vector-borne disease
 - » FDA Food Safety Modernization Act
 - » Immunization Program
 - » Injury and violence prevention
 - » Maternal and Child Health block grant
 - » Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program
 - » Preventive Health and Health Services block grant
 - » Sexual/reproductive health
 - » Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- **Child nutrition reauthorization** that supports access to healthy food and accessibility of locally grown food for urban and rural areas
 - » Adequate funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - » Adequate funding for WIC
- **Chronic disease prevention** including implementation of menu labeling
- **Clean Air Act protection**
- **Climate change adaptation and mitigation**, utilizing a "one health" approach that recognizes the interconnection of threats to the environment, human, and animal health
- **Health equity** and social determinants of health
- **Infectious disease prevention** utilizing a "one health" approach, particularly for antimicrobial resistance, antibiotic stewardship, effective use of vaccines for vaccine-preventable diseases, and for prevention of and response to emerging infectious disease threats, including zoonotic and vector borne diseases
- **Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act implementation**
- **Primary care funding streams** authorized in the Affordable Care Act (Children's Health Insurance Program, Community Health Centers, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, National Health Service Corps)
- **Ryan White CARE Act funding and reauthorization**
- **Substance abuse prevention, control and treatment**, including opioid overdose prevention and increased access to medication-assisted therapy
- **Support for Medicaid**, including expansion as enacted in the ACA
- **Tobacco control and prevention** and regulation of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes)
- **Transportation bill implementation and reauthorization**, including support for active living/public transportation
- **Violence prevention**, including gun violence prevention

Issues to Address with a Long-Term Perspective

- Seek opportunities to **promote collaboration between and integration of public health and health care providers** (including federally qualified health centers and hospitals) in federally funded programs to address population health
- Identify approaches in all NACCHO's advocacy activities that will **contribute to the elimination of health inequities** and ensure that such approaches are framed and addressed explicitly. A Health in All Policies approach may be used to explicitly address decisions made outside the health sector that significantly impact public health. Examples of specific policy recommendations include the following:
 - » Supporting policies and programs to reduce poverty such as Transitional Jobs programs, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and increasing minimum wage to a livable wage
 - » Supporting policies and programs to improve educational attainment such as expansion of Head Start and maintenance of child care subsidy
 - » Supporting policies and programs to improve access to safe, affordable housing
- **Achieve greater local health department consensus in state public health enterprise decision-making** concerning the distribution and uses of federal funds to support both state and local public health activities, similar to the requirement in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant program

NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

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