

The Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in California

The Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund), created in 2010, is the first federal funding source dedicated to public health and prevention and represents a unique opportunity to reduce long-term health costs. Seventy-five percent of all health care costs in our country are spent on the treatment of chronic diseases, many of which could be easily prevented.

In 2012, the Fund will invest \$1 billion in programs that will benefit every state and allow communities to move forward on proven, effective ways to keep Americans healthier and more productive. Over the next 10 years (FY2013-22) the Fund will invest a total of \$12.5 billion in cross-cutting prevention programs that have the potential to transform our public health system. The Fund is supporting new programs such as Community Transformation Grants, a National Tobacco Education Campaign, and strategies to reduce hospital associated infections. It is also supporting grants to allow every state to begin to build core, comprehensive capacity to address common risk factors for chronic diseases.

Since 2010, California has received \$90.6 million dollars through the Prevention Fund. This essential investment is already at work in California, providing critical resources for prevention programs to combat the leading causes of death and disability. Some of the accomplishments supported by the Fund include:

Reduce the leading causes of disease, disability and death

- **Reducing Tobacco Use:** During the first week of CDC airing its *Tips from Former Smokers* campaign, states saw astonishing spikes in the number of calls to 1-800-QUIT NOW. Nationwide, there was a 130 percent increase in calls, while California saw a 300 percent increase in the week after the ads aired and a 400 percent increase by week seven.
- **Reducing Chronic Conditions:** California communities have received a total of \$17 million through the Community Transformation Grants program. This includes a \$3 million Community Transformation Grant to San Diego, which will help up to 2.9 million people control high blood pressure and cholesterol in healthcare and workplace settings by 2016. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is receiving \$9.8 million; the San Francisco Department of Public Health is receiving \$814,358; and the Public Health Institute is receiving \$5.9 million. Work will focus on expanding efforts in tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, quality clinical and other preventive services, social and emotional wellness, and healthy and safe physical environments.
- **Preventing Co-Occurring Disorders:** California has received nearly \$7.3 million from the Prevention Fund to improve the physical health of adults with serious mental illness or who are at risk for co-occurring chronic diseases and to prevent suicide. The grants to Glenn County Health Services Agency, Asian Community Mental Health Services, San Mateo County Health

System, Tarzana Treatment Centers, Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, and San Francisco Department of Public Health are supporting integration of primary and behavioral health services in order to improve the overall health of those with serious mental illness, improve access to care and prevention, and reduce the per capita cost of care. Funds have also supported suicide screening and prevention.

- **Employing a 50 State Coordinated Approach to Fighting Chronic Disease:** For the first time, California received \$1.9 million to build a statewide cross-cutting prevention and health promotion program to build leadership, improve surveillance and epidemiology, and engage with health care systems to reduce the crippling burden of chronic disease.

Promote better detection and response to disease threats

- **Detection and Response Capacity:** The State of California and Los Angeles County have received \$2.944 million through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants and the Emerging Infections Program to prevent, detect, and respond to disease outbreaks, including those caused by influenza and foodborne pathogens. It also funds programs that prevent healthcare-associated infections.

Strengthen the public health system

- **Improving state and local health departments:** The California Department of Public Health has received \$3.1 million through the National Public Health Improvement Initiative to enable public health departments to better serve their citizens and meet public health goals. Projects in California have included performance improvement, workforce development and training, and increasing the capacity to receive lab, immunization, and syndromic surveillance data sent by hospital and provider electronic health record systems.
- **Building immunization services:** The California Department of Public Health received over \$6 million to improve access to vaccines, including purchasing vaccines and implementing a plan for billing for immunization services provided to insured individuals in health department clinics. Approximately 20% of the counties are not billing for services at all. This project will develop billing training modules and train local jurisdictions in the billing process, establish state-wide contracts with insurance carriers, and use the California Immunization Registry to track doses of vaccine reimbursed to local health jurisdictions by private insurance, so reimbursement can be used to purchase additional vaccine.