

October 27, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States Senate
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members:

On behalf of organizations and communities working toward ensuring healthy opportunities are available to all regardless of race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, we are writing to urge you to fully fund the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health program (REACH) at the FY2016 level of \$50.95 million in a final FY 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill or other final FY 2017 spending legislation.

Everyone should have the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential. Unfortunately, so many individuals are unable to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles due to a lack of availability of healthy choices in their communities. The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program serves as a crucial way to help these communities make healthy living a reality by tackling risk factors for some of the most expensive and burdensome health conditions impacting racial and ethnic groups. By fully funding REACH, you will be ensuring we continue making valuable ground in tackling racial and ethnic disparities.

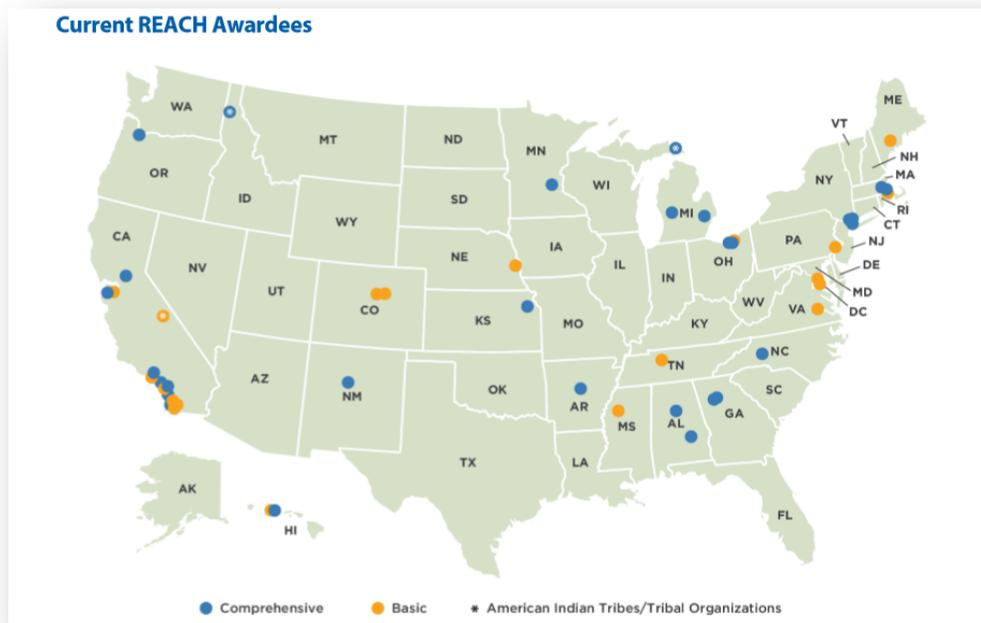
REACH serves as the nation's only community-based, culturally relevant and multi-disciplinary program dedicated to the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. Health disparities, like the examples listed below, continue to rise and widen in communities because of poverty, and other social, economic and environmental factors. According to CDC and other health experts:

- Non-Hispanic blacks are 40% more likely to have high blood pressure than non-Hispanic whites, and they are less likely to effectively manage these conditions.
- Non-Hispanic blacks have the highest rate of obesity (44%), followed by Mexican Americans (39%).
- The rate of diagnosed diabetes is 18% higher among Asian Americans, 66% higher among Hispanic/Latinos, and 77% higher among non-Hispanic blacks compared to non-Hispanic whites.
- American Indians and Alaskan Natives are 60% more likely to be obese than non-Hispanic whites.
- Asians are 60% more likely to be diagnosed with end stage renal disease than non-Hispanic whites
- The incidence rate of cervical cancer is 41% higher among non-Hispanic black women and 44% higher among Hispanic/Latino women compared to non-Hispanic white women

CDC conducted a REACH US Risk Factor Survey annually from 2009 to 2012. The survey gathered health and behavior information from 28 REACH US communities about chronic disease prevalence, fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity levels, prevention services use, and adult immunizations rates. The following are some of the findings from REACH communities:

- Over the 3-year intervention period, smoking prevalence decreased on average 7.5% (or an average of 2.5% per year) among African Americans and 4.5% among Hispanics.
- In REACH communities that focused on cardiovascular disease or diabetes during this time, the percentage of adults who reported eating five or more fruits and vegetables daily increased 3.9% among African Americans and 9.3% among Hispanics.
- The percentage of adults aged 65 years or older who had an influenza shot in the past year increased on average 11.1% across the 3-year intervention period.

REACH 2014 funds 49 grantees from a variety of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, including state and local health departments, tribes/tribal organizations, universities and community-based organizations. REACH partners identify, develop, and disseminate effective strategies for addressing health disparities across a wide range of health priority areas such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, infant mortality, asthma, immunization, and obesity. Awardees create healthier communities by strengthening the capacity and implementing tailored evidence- and practice-based strategies that will reach at least 75% of the selected priority population across multiple settings.



The REACH program is advancing community-level strategies that work to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in chronic disease and related risk factors. Investing directly in community coalitions with multiple years of awards allows the time and resources necessary to address the many root causes of racial and ethnic disparities and reverse the upward trend of chronic disease.

We urge you fully fund the REACH program in FY2017. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

163rd Street Improvement Council, Inc.
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Access to Holistic and Productive Living Institute, Inc.
Action for Healthy Kids
Active Living By Design
ADAP Advocacy Association
Advancement Project California
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
African Services Committee
AIDS Alabama
Alaska Public Health Association
Alker Memorial Baptist Church
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Council on Exercise
American Diabetes Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Arkansas Public Health Association
ASHA Delegate-CHNEO
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Media Access
Asian Services In Action, Inc.
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Be There San Diego
Beauty Within Teen Esteem
Big Cities Health Coalition
Boston Public Health Commission
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Brockton Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.
Bronx Community Health Network
Bronx Health Reach
Build Healthy Places Network

Cada Paso
California Consortium of Addiction Programs & Professionals
California Newsreel
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Voter
Calvary United Methodist Church
Calvary Victory Bible Church
Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands
Carlton-Cook-Lake-St. Louis Community Health Board
Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education
Center for Healthy Communities, California State University, Chico
Center for Science in the Public Interest
ChangeLab Solutions
Charlotte Maxwell Clinic
Christ the King Church
church alive development corp
Cleveland Department of Public Health
Clifton-Hawkins and Associates
Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation
Collaborative Cottage Grove
Colorado Black Health Collaborative
Commission on the Public's Health System
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Community Access National Network
Community Education Council, District 9
Community Health Councils
Community Health Partners
Community Outreach & Patient Empowerment
Connecticut Wisewoman Program
Consortium for Infant and Child Health
COPE
Coqui the Chef
Cosmopolitan Church of the Lord Jesus
CPC Community Health
Creative Narrations
Cultiva La Salud
Cumberland Cape Atlantic YMCA
DAYS Long Beach
De Sales Community Housing Corporation
Delaware Academy of Medicine
Delaware Center for Health Promotion at Delaware State University
Delaware Ecumenical Council on Children and Families
Delaware Public Health Association
Diné Food Sovereignty Alliance
Directors of Health Promotion and Education
Disciples Refugee & Immigrant Ministries

Eta Sigma Gamma
Every Neighborhood Partnership
Farm to Table
Florida Department of Health in Orange County
Fordham Manor Reformed Church
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.
Franciscans for Justice
George Washington University
George Washington University Cancer Center
Green Generations, Inc.
Greenwood Leflore Hospital
GRP Computer Consulting
Harden Memorial Baptist CME
Hawaii Department of Health Public Health Nursing Branch
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida
Healthy Kids Club- UCHealth
Hispanic Health Initiatives, Inc.
Holy Spirit Church
Idaho Public Health Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Initiative for Social Development in Africa
Institute for Public Health Innovation
Institute of Social Medicine & Community Health
Integrative Medicine for the Underserved
International Coach Federation
Iowa Public Health Association
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Kalusugan Coalition
Kent County Health Department
Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
Lakeshore Foundation
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College Columbia University
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Leverage Points Consulting
Life and Peace Development Organization
Local Initiatives Support Corporation New York City
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Lucero Elementary School
Maine Public Health Association
Mandela MarketPlace
Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center, Inc.

Maryland Public Health Association
Maternal and Child Health Access
Maverick County Hospital District
Me Myself & I
Merced Local Food Project
Minnesota Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
Montefiore School Health Program
Montgomery County Health Department
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Olivet Baptist Church
Mount Zion CME Church
Multnomah County Health Department
National Association of Counties
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of State EMS Officials
National Black Nurses Association
National Consumers League
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Kidney Foundation
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Recreation and Park Association
National WIC Association
Navajo Community Health Outreach
Navajo Nation Department of Health
Nebraska Center for Healthy Families
Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility United Church of Christ
NETWORK Lobby
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Health & Equity Partnership
New Jersey Public Health Association
New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care
New York Common Pantry
New York State Public Health Association
North American Quitline Consortium
Northeast Florida Community Health Collaborative
Oakland County Health Division
Office of Community & Economic Development at California State University, Fresno
Office of Public Health Studies
Old Colony YMCA
Operation Samahan, Inc.
Oral Health America
Palmer Drug Abuse Program of Ventura County, Inc.
Paradise Baptist Church Health Watch Ministries
Pennsylvania Public Health Association

Planned Parenthood Arizona
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
PS/IS 218
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Association of NYC
Public Health Institute
Queens Hospital Center
Ramah Navajo School Board, Inc.
REACH Early Intervention Program
Real Food for Kids - Montgomery
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention
Respiratory Health Association
Resurrection and Life Pentecostal Church of America, Inc.
RESURRECTION AND LIFE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF AMERICA, INC.
Rodham Institute George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Russell Institutional
Ruu Community Women's Association
Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Saint Augustine Our Lady Victory Church
Sarah Samuels Center for Public Health Research & Evaluation
School Food Focus
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.
Shiprock Fruit and Vegetable Prescription Program
Sisters of St. Francis , Advocacy Committee
SoBro
Society for Public Health Education
Somerset County Department of Health
South Carolina Public Health Association
South Carolina Tobacco-Free Collaborative
South Los Angeles Health Projects
Southern California Public Health Association
Southwest Women's Law Center
Survey Research Group
Sustainable Snacks
Tacoma Urban League
Team 254
The Bodega Association of the United States
The Eating Well, Inc.
The Food Trust
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc.
The Stapleton Foundation for sustainable urban communities
The Urban Collaborative Project.org
The Wilderness Society

Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Inc.
Trust for America's Health
UC Merced Health Sciences Research Institute
UC San Diego Health
United Sikhs
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio
University of Science & Technology
Upstream Public Health
Utah Public Health Association
Vermont Public Health Association
Waab Healthy Lifestyle Coalition
WalkBoston
Walker Memorial Baptist Church
Washington Community Action Network
Washington State Public Health Association
WellCare Health Plans
Wildflower Consulting
Wings of Redemption Ministry
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Word Of Life International, Inc.
Yap Anti-Tobacco Coalition
Yap Tobacco Control Program
YHEP Health Center / Philadelphia FIGHT
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
YMCA of the USA
Yogatones (Health and Wellbeing)
Zero Breast Cancer