

# HRSA Public Health Workforce Funding

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) recommend funding the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) “**Public Health Workforce**” **line-item at \$22.14 million in FY 2019**. This recommendation will provide funding for two important and complementary programs:

- Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: \$11,136,000
- Public Health Training Centers: \$11,000,000

The **Public Health Training Centers Program** and **Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs** play a pivotal role in training current and future public health professionals through the delivery of specialized curricula aimed at advancing and honing the expertise of the workforce.

The funding for **Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs** supports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health in order to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. These residency training programs provide a blueprint on how to train our future physician workforce.

- Preventive medicine residents are among the only medical residents whose graduate medical education (GME) costs are not fully supported by Medicare or Medicaid GME funding.
- Today, roughly 50 percent of the accredited slots for preventive medicine residency training programs go unfilled due to lack of funds to offset residency training costs.
- Recent estimates show that Preventive Medicine training programs received over seven times the number of applications than there were funded resident slots.

The **Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) Program** provides grants to accredited schools of public health to provide graduate or specialized training to frontline public health workers and managers in state, local and tribal health departments and public health agencies.

- According to ASTHO and NACCHO surveys, over 51,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost to budget cuts since 2008, or about 19 percent of the workforce. These reductions, coupled with the evolving field of public health, require public health workers to learn new skills and master new approaches through ongoing training.
- New threats arise, such as the recent Ebola outbreak, which require the rapid deployment of specialized training that the Centers can provide. During the Ebola crisis, the PHTCs worked with HRSA and CDC to consolidate knowledge about Ebola response trainings and resources to the public health workforce. The coordinating center and the PHTC’s developed and distributed educational and training resources to address the threat.

**More about the Public Health Training Centers Program:** There are currently ten Regional PHTCs that have a multi-state service area model. The grantees have contractual relationships with education and training sites, called Local Performance Sites. In addition to the ten Regional PHTCs, a National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training was formed to ensure a shared vision and mission across all Regional PHTCs. This Center has been jointly funded by HRSA and CDC. The PHTC Program improves the Nation’s public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of the public health workforce.

**More about Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs:** There are currently 75 accredited preventive medicine residency training programs in the United States. Programs are in schools of medicine, schools of public health, state or local health departments, and in federal agencies and military bases. Approximately 350 residents every year complete training that includes three components: (1) a minimum of one year of clinical medicine; (2) completion of a Master of Public Health or other equivalent degree; and (3) public health field training. Preventive medicine physicians are at the forefront of efforts to integrate primary care and public health and can be found working in settings such as, federal and state agencies, health departments, community health centers, hospitals, academia, and private industry.

**Program History**  
(in Millions)

Program	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 Request
Preventive Medicine Residencies/Integrative Medicine	\$11.14	\$11.14	\$7.14	\$7.14	\$11.14
Public Health Training Centers	\$9.86	\$9.86	\$9.86	\$9.86	\$11.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21.00</b>	<b>\$21.00</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>	<b>\$17.00</b>	<b>\$22.14</b>

The **Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)** is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). There are currently more than 52,000 public health students in the schools and programs that make up the ASPPH community. Our mission is to transform public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice activities of CEPH-accredited schools and programs.



American College of Preventive Medicine  
physicians dedicated to prevention

Founded in 1954, the **American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)** is a professional, medical society of more than 2,700 members employed in research, academia, government, clinical settings, and other entities worldwide. ACPM provides a dynamic forum for the exchange of knowledge among preventive

medicine specialists, offers high-quality educational programs for continuing medical education (CME) and maintenance of certification (MOC), and information and resources for professional development.



March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &  
Human Services, Education, and Related  
Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge that you fully fund programs in the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) “Public Health and Preventive Medicine” line item in Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19). Funding for the Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs and the Public Health Training Centers is pivotal to assuring a well-trained public health workforce equipped to address social determinants, other drivers of health care spending, and to advance the research, training, and action necessary to protect and promote health for all our citizens.

The recommended levels of funding for FY 2019 are:

- Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: \$11,136,000
- Public Health Training Centers: \$11,000,000

Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs supports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. As our health care system is increasing its emphasis on improving health outcomes among defined populations, these residency training programs provide a blueprint on how to train our future physician workforce.

Preventive medicine residents are among the only medical residents whose graduate medical education (GME) costs are not fully supported by Medicare or Medicaid GME funding. Today, roughly half of the accredited slots for preventive medicine residency training programs go unfilled due to lack of funds to offset residency training costs. With the \$4 million cut to the program in the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17)

budget, Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs are forced to turn away highly-qualified physicians who want to improve the health of populations, rather than care for one patient at a time, and less able to train the public health professionals the country needs. It is clear that this program needs funding restored to meet the needs of the public health workforce.

The Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) Program provides grants to accredited schools of public health to provide graduate or specialized training to frontline public health workers and managers in state, local, and tribal health departments and public health agencies. According to surveys from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO), over 51,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost to budget cuts since 2008, or about 19 percent of the workforce. These reductions, coupled with the evolving field of public health, require public health workers to learn new skills and master new approaches through ongoing training. The funding for this program, however, has not kept pace to make up for biomedical inflation.

New threats arise, such as the recent Ebola and Zika outbreaks, which require the rapid deployment of specialized training that the Centers can provide. During the Ebola crisis, the PHTCs worked with HRSA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to consolidate knowledge about Ebola response trainings and resources to the public health workforce. The coordinating center and the PHTC's developed and distributed educational and training resources to address the threats.

With the rise in chronic diseases and the public health crises such as the opioid epidemic that always loom on the horizon, it is time to expand – not shrink – the training of physicians and other public health workers in disease prevention and health promotion.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Medicine Association  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Council on Education for Public Health  
Healthcare Ready  
HIV Medicine Association  
Lakeshore  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
Society for Public Health Education  
The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Trust for America's Health