

## Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Funding Priorities Fiscal Year 2020

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing 116 schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and their 9,599 faculty members and 61,453 students. Our mission is to strengthen the capacity of members by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health.

Given the explosion of new scientific knowledge and the potential for even more rapid progress, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) believes it is vital that we reinvest in the public health research mission. Providing predictable and adequate public health research funding to support both the infrastructure and the investigators necessary to make scientific breakthroughs is essential. **ASPPH calls for increased public health research investments in fiscal year 2020, including:**

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

**CDC Overall:** ASPPH endorses the recommendation of the CDC Coalition and urges Congress to provide at least \$7.8 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's programs in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. CDC has been inadequately funded for years, especially given its critical responsibilities to address the challenges and burdens of chronic disease and disability, public health emergencies, new and reemerging infectious diseases, and other public health needs.

**CDC Prevention Research Centers (PRCs):** The PRCs are a national network of academic research centers committed to conducting prevention research and are leaders in translating research results into policy and public health practice. PRCs work closely with community members to establish health priorities and develop applicable research projects that address local public health needs. These partners collaborate with health departments, educational boards, and the private sector to form long-term relationships that make PRCs the leaders in community-based participatory research. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends \$40 million for the PRC program. This will allow institutions whose applications were recently "approved but unfunded" (ABU) by the CDC to be funded

**CDC Extramural Research:** The CDC plays a vital role in protecting America from health, safety and security threats, by fighting disease and supporting communities and citizens to do the same. Research is critical to the CDC's mission, but has been underfunded and undervalued. We urge Congress to expand CDC's research portfolio to match the challenges being addressed by the Agency, by providing \$15 million in new peer reviewed funding for extramural academic research supporting CDC's critical mission activities.

**CDC Centers for Public Health Preparedness:** The CDC Centers for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) program was started in 2000 to strengthen emergency preparedness by linking academic expertise to state and local health agency needs. Since its establishment, the program has become an important national resource for the development, delivery, and evaluation of preparedness education. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends \$9 million for the CPHP program.

**CDC NIOSH Centers:** The National Institute of Occupational Health sponsors two center programs to meet the needs of national and regional safety and health professionals, The Educational Resource Centers (ERCs) program was created in 1977 to help NIOSH achieve its mandate of "providing an adequate supply of qualified personnel to carry out the purposes of the Occupational Safety and Health Act" by creating educational opportunities for occupational health and safety (OH&S) professionals. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends \$31 million for the NIOSH Educational Resource Centers. The NIOSH Agriculture Forestry and Fishing Centers are working on over 40 research projects in areas such as pesticide exposure, agricultural surveillance, "smart clothing" for loggers and forest workers, and improving vessel stability, all of which are priority areas for these sectors. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends \$27.5 million for the NIOSH Agriculture Forestry and Fishing Centers.

**CDC Injury Control Research Centers:** The CDC's Injury Control Research Centers (ICRCs) are on the scientific front line conducting cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research on the causes, outcomes, and prevention of injuries and violence. ICRC research focuses on issues of local and national importance including motor vehicle injuries; interpersonal violence and suicide; opioid overdoses; older adult falls; and traumatic brain injuries. ICRCs work with states and communities to ensure research is put into action to prevent injuries and violence. They provide technical assistance to disseminate and translate research findings that leads to increased awareness and influences action. For FY 2020 ASPPH recommends \$12 million for the Injury Control Research Centers.

### **National Institutes of Health:**

NIH Overall: ASPPH endorses the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding to provide at least \$41.6 billion for the NIH in FY 2020. This funding level would allow for meaningful growth above inflation in the NIH's base budget that would expand NIH's capacity to support promising science in all disciplines.

**NIH Fogarty International Center:** The investment in Fogarty is an investment in the health of all Americans by providing vital research support to both prevent newly emerging infectious agents from becoming domestic calamities and to help us reduce the rising rate of noncommunicable diseases and the health impact of chronic conditions. By providing research and training support to research partners in areas where recent pandemic threats have first emerged and have been identified, Fogarty is protecting Americans. By providing support for research and training on addressing noncommunicable diseases and chronic conditions, Fogarty has helped us learn new approaches from other countries that are effective for improving the health of Americans. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends that \$88.11 million be appropriated for the Fogarty International Center.

**NIH Office of Disease Prevention:** The Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) is located within the NIH Office of the Director. The office is responsible for assessing, facilitating, and stimulating research in disease prevention, and disseminating the results of this research to improve public health. ODP recently completed a new strategic plan. ASPPH recommends that in FY 2020 the Office of Disease Prevention receive a significant increase in funding in order to implement its new strategic plan.

#### **Health Resources and Services Administration:**

**HRSA Overall:** ASPPH endorses the recommendation of the Friends of HRSA and urges Congress to provide \$8.56 billion in discretionary funding for HRSA. HRSA administers programs that focus on improving care for tens of millions of Americans who are medically underserved or face barriers to needed care by strengthening the health workforce and increasing access to health services.

**HRSA Public Health Training Centers:** The Public Health Learning Network (PHLN) consists of 10 university-based regional public health training centers (RPHTCs) and 40 local training sites, operating as the Public Health Training Center Program. The Public Health Training Center Program is the nation's only comprehensive training system to ensure workers in healthcare, behavioral health, public health and other fields have the skills needed to respond to increasingly complex public health challenges and protect the nation's health. For FY 2020, ASPPH recommends \$9 million for the PHTC program.

#### **Other Appropriation Priorities:**

- ASPPH endorses the recommendation of the Friends of AHRQ and urges Congress to provide \$460 million in budget authority for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. We urge Congress to reject the administration's proposal to move AHRQ into the NIH.
- ASPPH urges Congress to provide \$50 million to the CDC for firearm violence research.

For more information on the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health and its advocacy positions, contact Tony Mazzaschi, ASPPH Chief Advocacy Officer, at 202-296-1099, Ext. 132, or [advocacy@aspvh.org](mailto:advocacy@aspvh.org).