

The Prevention and Public Health Fund at Work in Nebraska

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 2017, the Fund is investing nearly \$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 ten years (FY2018-27), the Fund will invest a total of \$14 billion in cross-cutting prevention programs that have the potential to transform our public health system. In its first eight years, the Prevention Fund has invested almost \$7 billion, the vast majority in resources to states, communities, and tribal and community organizations in support of community-based prevention, including tobacco use prevention, healthy eating and active living, as well as childhood immunizations and clinical prevention.

Nebraska has received more than \$40 million through the Prevention Fund since 2010¹. This essential investment is already at work in Nebraska, providing critical resources to support evidence-based, community prevention activities that are specifically tailored to meet community health needs and preferences. This isn't a one-size-fits-all solutions for prevention. Some of the investments supported by the Prevention Fund include:

Reduce the leading causes of disease, disability and death

State and Local Public Health Actions to Prevent Obesity, Diabetes, and Heart Disease and Stroke (1422): Nebraska received a grant of \$2.64 million in FY16 from the four-year program for state and large city health departments to address environmental and system approaches, as well as health system interventions that promote health and healthful behaviors.

Each State will subgrant half of these funds to support prevention activities in four to eight communities. Community strategies will support community prevention strategies, focused particularly on those at high risk, to prevent diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. Health system interventions and efforts to link community programs to clinical services will aim to improve health care and preventive services

to populations with the largest disparities in high blood pressure and pre-diabetes.

Reducing Tobacco Use: Nebraska received \$149,641 in FY16 from the Prevention Fund for tobacco use prevention. 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. Nebraska saw a 99.1 percent increase in the first week alone. According to a March 2016 study published in *Preventing Chronic Disease*, the national ad campaign led an estimated 1.6 million smokers to attempt to quit smoking and helped more than 100,000 Americans quit smoking immediately. A recent study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* found that the Tips campaign resulted in a 12% relative increase in population-level quit attempts and prevented 17,109 premature deaths in the U.S. Tips spent approximately \$480 per quitter, and \$2,819 per premature death averted.

Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Obesity: Nebraska received over \$1.23 million in FY16 under the State Public Health Actions to Prevent and Control Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity and Associated Risk Factors and Promote School Health (DNPAO) grant program. More than one in three Americans and nearly one in five children in this country is obese. These awards to state health departments allow four CDC programs- diabetes; heart disease and stroke; nutrition, physical activity and obesity; and school health- to work in a coordinated fashion to prevent chronic disease by addressing common risk factors.

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH): Nebraska received over \$546,444 in REACH grants in FY16 through the PPHF. FY16's award is the last year of a three-year project to addresses chronic disease risk factors by establishing community-based programs and culturally-tailored interventions serving African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics/Latinos, Asian Americans, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

Promote better detection and response to disease threats

Detection and Response Capacity: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services received over \$710,451 in FY16 through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants. Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants support the ability of state and local health departments to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks, including those caused by influenza and foodborne pathogens. Nebraska also received over \$50,000 in FY16 to fund programs that prevent healthcare-associated infections.

Strengthen the public health system

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant: Nebraska received over \$2.59 million in FY16 from the Preventive Health and Health Services Block grant, which allows states to address their unique public health needs in innovative and locally defined ways. This program gives grantees the flexibility to use funds to respond rapidly to emerging health issues and to fill funding gaps in programs that deal with leading causes of death and disability.

Building Immunization Services: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services received over \$1.58 million in FY16 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.

¹ Includes funds to date but amount does not include total awards for fiscal year 2017.