

# FACT SHEET

## FUNCTION 550 – PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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### *Make Public Health Funding A National Priority. Investing in America's Health and Safety Has Never Been More Important.*

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**FY 2009 Request:** Increase funding for Function 550/discretionary budget allocation in Fiscal Year 2009 by an amount that will 1) restore funding cuts in Public Health programs enacted in 2006, 2) reverse flat-funding during the past five years that has eroded capacity of Public Health to address health concerns for our nation and 3) provide investments that begin to truly meet health challenges facing the nation.

An additional **\$5.3 billion** is needed in FY 2009 to restore funding cuts to these programs enacted in FY 2006, and to regain lost purchasing power. This request is over and above any emergency funding requests.

The Public Health Service includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), and other federal agencies dedicated to preventing disease, advancing medical knowledge, delivering key health care services, ensuring food safety, and training a diverse health workforce.

**Funding for Function 550 is vital to homeland health and security, especially when many Americans are struggling to afford health insurance and communities are not adequately prepared for public health emergencies. Saving and safeguarding American lives through prevention, treatment, and cure of diseases only will be achieved by making sufficient and sustained funding of public health programs a national priority.**

#### **Inadequate Funding For Function 550 Puts All of Us At Risk.**

- **Biomedical and Behavioral Research:** Maintaining a vigorous portfolio of investigator-initiated basic research and pivotal translational and clinical studies to address the myriad health challenges that confront the American people and to develop a stable pool of talented new investigators whose ideas and fresh perspectives are vital to invigorating the research enterprise.
- **Disease Prevention and Health Promotion:** Improving community-based prevention and early intervention activities that address costly chronic diseases, infectious diseases, including those that are becoming increasingly drug-resistant, strengthening public health capacity and ensuring those with disabilities reach their highest potential.
- **Access to Safety Net Health Care Services:** Assuring access to basic and targeted health care services for the growing numbers of Americans who lack health insurance.
- **Health Professions Education:** Assuring that there is a well-trained, diverse health and public health workforce to serve as the foundation for the nation's health care system.
- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse:** Assuring access to needed mental health and substance abuse services for hundreds of thousands who must wait months for care, including Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan; reducing the 15-20 year lag from bench to bedside of promising new treatments.
- **Health Services Research:** Building the evidence needed to ensure patients get the right care at the right time, every time; providing decision makers with information that will help control unsustainable costs.
- **Health care for American Indians and Alaska Natives:** Reversing current health disparities for this population that now suffers a life expectancy that is four years lower than the general population.
- **Food and Drug Safety:** Assuring the nation has a safe food supply and a safe and effective supply of drugs and medical devices.

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*Advocating for healthier people through health education on behalf of the 35,000 members of the American Academy of Health Behavior; American Association for Health Education; American College Health Association; American Public Health Association/Public Health Education & Health Promotion Section; Coalition of National Health Education Organizations; Council of Accredited MPH Programs; Directors of Health Promotion and Education; Eta Sigma Gamma; National REACH Coalition for the Elimination of Racial & Ethnic Health Disparities; Society for Public Health Education; and Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.*

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