



Public Health Funding—Fiscal Year 2006

Appropriations for CDC, HRSA and other Public Health Service Agencies

The President’s proposed fiscal year 2006 budget has dramatically underscored the need to educate the Administration, members of Congress, and the public at large about the vital role of public health programs in the United States. The U.S. public health system has historically used federal funding in a cost-efficient manner and is poised to make significant additional progress. Continued underfunding, as proposed in the President’s request, undermines the progress we have made to date and will have future consequences that will leave us unprepared for an unforeseen terror attack, infectious disease outbreak, or other public health emergency.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2005 Funding	President’s 2006 Proposal	Difference	APHA Request
\$8 billion	\$7.5 billion	\$500 million cut	\$8.65 billion

Although the President’s budget includes additional program funding for vaccine purchase grants and stockpiling, as well as the global disease detection program (which helps fight AIDS worldwide), the overall budget proposal calls for significant cuts in CDC funding. Funding for chronic disease prevention, state and local terrorism capacity, the VERB Youth Media Campaign, and the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant were all severely cut or eliminated. Since more than 70% of CDC’s total budget funds programs at the state and local levels, cuts have a direct impact on states and communities.

Health Resources and Services Administration

2005 Funding	President’s 2006 Proposal	Difference	APHA Request
\$6.8 billion	\$5.9 billion	\$900 million cut	\$7.5 billion

The President’s budget included additional funding for community health centers with the goal of having at least one community health center in every poor county in the United States. Nevertheless, APHA is concerned with the severe cuts to other HRSA programs, including health professions and the Healthy Communities Access Program, as well as cuts in the Medicaid program, which could undermine the goal of increasing access to health care.

What is needed:

- **Increased funding for public health agencies and programs, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).**

Why it is important:

- Funding through the CDC provides the foundation for state and local public health departments, supporting a trained workforce, laboratory capacity and public health education communication systems.
- Many CDC programs assist states in funding programs to combat the nation’s leading chronic diseases and for health promotion campaigns.
- CDC serves as the command center for our nation’s public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases.
- From anthrax to West Nile, to smallpox to avian flu, the CDC is the nation’s—and the world’s—expert resource and response hub.
- HRSA programs assure that all Americans have access to our nation’s best available health care services.
- Through its programs in thousands of communities, HRSA provides a health safety net for medically underserved families and individuals.
- Programs to support the underserved put HRSA on the front lines in erasing our nation’s racial and ethnic disparities.