AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND

Background
Through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA)\(^1\), a substantial investment of Federal resources is made in prevention, health promotion, and advancement of public health. A primary mechanism for this effort is the creation of a new Prevention and Public Health Fund (Fund) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). A total of $15 billion has been authorized and already appropriated to this Fund for spending over the next decade. Other components of this national prevention and public health effort include a) the establishment of an interagency council within the Federal government, b) the expansion of the Preventive Services Task Force, c) the creation of a Community Preventive Services Task Force with a focus on the effectiveness, appropriateness, and cost-effectiveness of community preventive interventions, and d) a Community Transformation Grant Program. From the Fund, the HHS Secretary has announced $500 million in program allocations for fiscal year 2010.

Components of Prevention and Public Health Initiative

- **Prevention and Public Health Fund (ACA Sec. 4002):** The Fund is to provide an expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health. The HHS Secretary has the authority to transfer funds from the Fund to HHS programs/agencies for prevention, wellness and public health activities. The ACA provided $15 billion in mandatory spending for the Fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015 and thereafter</th>
<th>Total: 2010 - 2019</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.75</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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- **National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council (ACA Sec. 4001):** The ACA established an interagency council dedicated to promoting healthy policies at the Federal level. The Council is tasked with elevating and coordinating prevention activities and designing a focused strategy across Federal departments. The Council is to consist of representatives of Federal agencies. The Council will establish a national prevention and health promotion strategy and develop interagency working relationships to implement the

\(^1\) The ACA (H.R. 3590; P.L. 111-148) was modified by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4872; P.L. 111-152), and the consolidated health reform legislation can be accessed at [http://www.ncsl.org/documents/health/ppaca-consolidated.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/documents/health/ppaca-consolidated.pdf)
strategy. The Council will report annually to Congress on their health promotion activities and progress in meeting goals of the national strategy.

- **Community Preventive Service Task Force (ACA Sec. 4003):** The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is to establish an independent Task Force composed of individuals with appropriate expertise. The Task Force is to “review the scientific evidence related to the effectiveness, appropriateness, and cost-effectiveness of community preventive interventions,” and make recommendations to individuals and organizations delivering population-based services, with specific reference to Indian tribes, tribal organizations and urban Indian organizations.

- **Community Transformation Grants (ACA Sec. 4201):** A Community Transformation Grant Program (Program) is authorized to award competitive grants to State and local governments, Indian tribes, community-based organizations, and others for “evidence-based community preventive health activities” to achieve a number of goals. Eligible activities include –
  - Prioritizing strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities, including social, economic, and geographic determinants of health, and
  - Addressing special populations needs, including residents of rural and frontier areas.

No Congressional appropriations were made directly to the Program, but the Program is authorized to receive funding from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Twenty percent (20%) of the grants are to be awarded to rural and frontier areas.

**Current Status of Effort**

For the 2010 fiscal year, the HHS Secretary has announced $500 million in program funding allocations. The first $250 million was allocated for the training of primary care professionals through the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration. The second $250 million was allocated for a range of community infrastructure activities, including an allocation of “$70 million to support State, local and tribal public health infrastructure and build State and local capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease outbreaks.”


**References**


**Questions**

If you need additional information, contact NIHB Legislative Director, Jennifer Cooper at (202) 507-4076 or the NIHB Website at [http://www.nihb.org/](http://www.nihb.org/)