

Prevention and Public Health Fund

Dedicated to improving our nation's public health



The American Public Health Association strongly supports the Prevention and Public Health Fund, a critical investment that is integral to addressing the burden of chronic and preventable disease in the United States.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund is the nation's first and only mandatory funding stream dedicated to improving the public's health

The United States spends far more on medical care than any other industrialized nation yet is ranked 30 out of 38 in terms of life expectancy.¹ Only 3.0% of all health spending in the U.S. is spent on public health, despite the fact that chronic conditions — the most common, costly and preventable of all health problems² — account for 90 percent of the nation's \$4.9 trillion in annual health care costs.³

The Affordable Care Act took an important first step toward addressing these issues by creating the Prevention and Public Health Fund. By law, the fund must be used "to provide for expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public health care costs."⁴

The fund is used to support a variety of community prevention and clinical prevention programs, to bolster the public health infrastructure and workforce, and to expand public health research and tracking efforts. Prevention and Public Health Fund dollars go to programs at the local, state and federal levels that fight obesity, curb tobacco use, increase access to immunizations and other preventative care services and tracking and preventing infectious diseases like COVID-19.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund improves the health of our nation and slows the growth of public and private health care costs

The Prevention and Public Health Fund provides critical resources to our state and local health departments to keep our communities healthy and safe from infectious disease, lead poisoning, tobacco-related diseases and much more. For example, every dollar spent on public health saves about \$14 in health savings and economic benefits.⁵

This funding is a critical component of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's budget, supporting programs that improve health outcomes and reduce costs. In FY 2024, Congress directed \$1.215 billion in PPHF funds to CDC for activities to address heart disease, immunization, diabetes prevention and other critical public health priorities. The remaining funds went to programs at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Administration for Community Living's Administration on Aging.

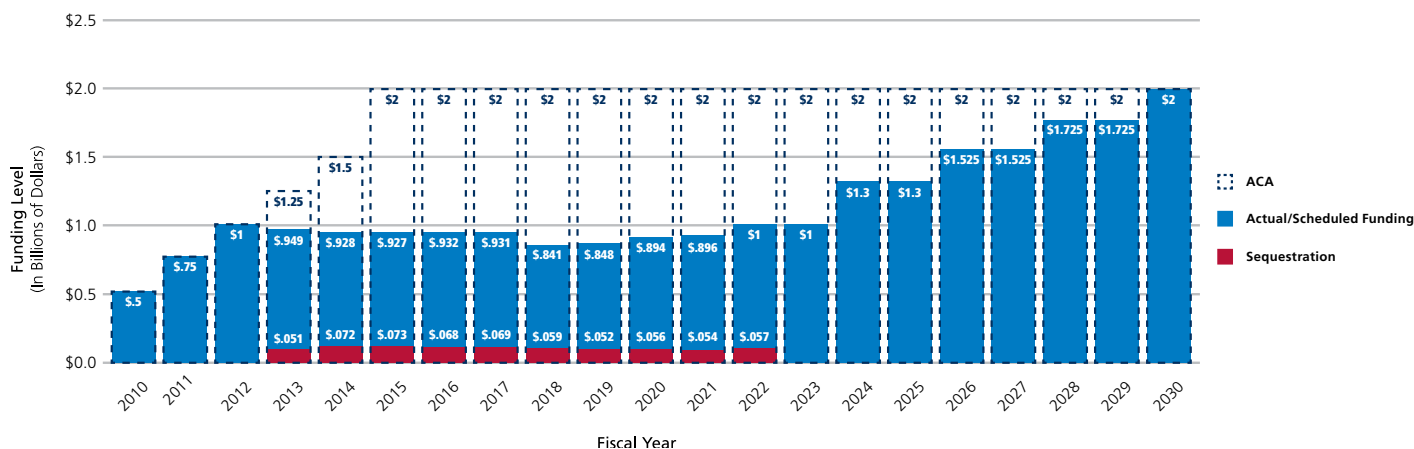
The United States faces significant health and fiscal challenges that could be mitigated by a better and more reliably funded public health system. The Prevention and Public Health Fund is a vital part of the effort to create such a system. APHA urges Congress to support the important work of the Prevention and Public Health Fund and opposes any further efforts to cut or eliminate this critical public health investment.

Funding History

The ACA authorized \$18.75 billion for the fund between FY 2010 and FY 2022 and \$2 billion per year after that. Annual funding levels started at \$500 million in FY 2010, and were meant to rise to \$2 billion per year by FY 2015. The mandatory nature was meant to protect the funding stream from reduction or elimination during the annual appropriations process.

However, since 2012, Congress has passed multiple bills that amend the ACA to cut and redirect money from the fund to pay for non-public health legislative proposals:

- In February 2012, Public Law 112-96 cut \$6.25 billion over nine years (FYs 2013-21) in order to offset a scheduled cut to Medicare physician payments.
- In December 2016, Public Law 114-255 cut \$3.5 billion from the fund over seven years (FYs 2018-24) to pay for the 21st Century Cures Act.
- In January 2018, Public Law 115-96 cut \$750 million from the Fund over four years (FYs 2019-22).
- In February 2018, Public Law 115-123 cut \$1.35 billion from the Fund over six years (FY 2022 and FYs 2024-27).



FY 2024 Allocation of Prevention and Public Health Fund

Agency	Program	Amount
ACL	Alzheimer's Disease Program	14,700,000
ACL	Chronic Disease Self-Management	8,000,000
ACL	Falls Prevention	5,000,000
CDC	Hospitals Promoting Breastfeeding	9,750,000
CDC	Prevent Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke	250,790,000
CDC	Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grants	40,000,000
CDC	Healthcare Associated Infections	12,000,000
CDC	Million Hearts Program	5,000,000
CDC	Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grants	160,000,000
CDC	Section 317 Immunization Grants	681,930,000
CDC	Lead Poisoning Prevention	51,000,000
CDC	Healthy Weight Taskforce and National Early Care and Education Collaboratives	5,000,000
SAMHSA	Garrett Lee Smith-Youth Suicide Prevention	12,000,000

References

1. America's Health Rankings 2021 Annual Report. United Health Foundation. Available at: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/>
2. National Health Care Spending Increased 7.2 Percent In 2024 As Utilization Remained Elevated. Micah Hartman, Anne B. Martin, David Lassman, Aaron Catlin, and The National Health Expenditure Accounts Team Health Affairs 2026 45:2, 110-120
3. National health expenditure data: historical. Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Updated December 18, 2024. Accessed March 4, 2025. <https://www.cms.gov/data-research/statistics-trends-and-reports/national-health-expenditure-data/historical>
4. P.L. 111-148: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Section 4002: Prevention and Public Health Fund. 111th Congress. Enacted March 23, 2010. Available online at: <http://housedocs.house.gov/energycommerce/ppacacon.pdf>.
5. Masters, Rebecca, et al. "Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review." J Epidemiol Community Health 71.8 (2017): 827-834.