

NACCHO's 2016 Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda



The Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda guides NACCHO's work as the national voice for local health departments, especially in its interactions with federal agencies and Congress. The agenda features NACCHO's priority issues and is informed by member input and approved annually by the Board of Directors.

NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments. NACCHO's Federal Legislative and Policy Agenda recognizes that policy decisions both within and outside the traditional health sphere impact health status. NACCHO urges policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to provide adequate funding for core public health services and safety net health and human services programs that can ensure a healthy and safe population, including healthy food, housing, environment, and access to healthcare and employment.

I. Issues for Priority Focus

- A. A balanced approach to deficit reduction, including spending cuts and revenue, and an end to sequestration
- B. FY2016 and FY2017 budget and appropriations for programs within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Food and Drug Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) that strengthen local health department performance, including the following:
 1. Public health emergency preparedness (including CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants and ASPR Medical Reserve Corps)
 2. Surveillance, prevention, and investigation of infectious disease
 3. Capacity building
 - a. Funding to allow local health departments to meet accreditation requirements, build systems capacity for billing and reimbursement of health services, and support foundational capabilities
 - b. Epidemiology and Lab Capacity (ELC) Grants
 4. Chronic disease prevention
 5. Delivery of clinical and community prevention services
 6. Local health department workforce continuing education and training
 7. Surveillance and investigation of foodborne illness
- C. Continuation at authorized levels of the Prevention and Public Health Fund including Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, ELC Grants, Section 317 Immunization Program, Diabetes and Heart Disease Prevention, and Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant
- D. Infrastructure and policies that support local health department capacity (workforce and technology) to participate in health data exchange with healthcare and human service providers
- E. Implementation of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act
- F. Support for local health department involvement in implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including maintaining core public health programs authorized and funded by the ACA and clinical and community preventive services supported by the ACA

II. Issues to Address in Coalition (in alphabetical order)

- A. CDC's total budget and FY2016 and FY2017 appropriations for programs with impact on local health departments or public health activities, including the following:
 - 1. CDC environmental health activities
 - 2. CDC infectious disease prevention funding
 - 3. Funding and effective implementation of the Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act to increase the safety and security of the food supply, reduce the incidence of foodborne illness, and make imported foods safer
 - 4. Injury and violence prevention
 - 5. Maternal and Child Health block grant
 - 6. Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program
 - 7. Preventive Health and Health Services block grant
 - 8. Section 317 Immunization Program
 - 9. Sexual/reproductive health including Title X family planning funding
 - 10. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- B. Child nutrition reauthorization that supports access to healthy food and accessibility of locally grown food for urban and rural areas
 - 1. Adequate funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - 2. Adequate funding for WIC
- C. Chronic disease prevention including implementation of menu labeling and support for physical activity in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- D. Clean Air Act defense
- E. Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- F. Continuation of primary care funding streams authorized in the ACA (Children's Health Insurance Program, Community Health Centers, Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program, National Health Service Corps)
- G. Infectious disease prevention including combating antimicrobial-resistant bacteria and promoting adult immunization and antibiotic stewardship
- H. Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization
- I. Substance abuse prevention and control, including prescription drug overdose prevention and increased access to medication-assisted therapy
- J. Support for Medicaid including expansion as enacted in the ACA
- K. Tobacco control and prevention and regulation of tobacco products (including e-cigarettes)
- L. Toxic Substances Control Act reauthorization supporting recognition of local health department role in protecting the public from hazardous chemicals
- M. Transportation bill implementation and reauthorization including support for active living/public transportation
- N. Violence prevention with an emphasis on health equity

III. Issues to Address with a Long-Term Perspective

- A. Seek opportunities to promote collaboration between and integration of public health and healthcare providers (including federally qualified health centers and hospitals) in federally funded programs to address population health
- B. Support local health departments to provide clinical services to the uninsured
- C. Identify approaches in all NACCHO's advocacy activities that will contribute to the elimination of health inequities and ensure that such approaches are framed and addressed explicitly. Examples of specific policy recommendations include the following:
 - 1. Supporting policies and programs to reduce poverty such as Transitional Jobs programs, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and increasing minimum wage to a livable wage
 - 2. Supporting policies and programs to improve educational attainment such as expanding Head Start and maintaining child care subsidy
 - 3. Supporting policies and programs to improve access to safe, affordable housing
- D. Achieve greater local health department consensus in state public health enterprise decision-making concerning the uses of federal funds to support both state and local public health activities, similar to the requirement in the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant program