

## Local Health Departments Prevent Disease through Immunization

Local health departments vaccinate people in their communities, providing one of the most successful and cost-effective ways to prevent disease and death. These local agencies work with public- and private-sector physicians to assure effective immunization practices, including proper storage and delivery of vaccines. Through the use of information systems administered by health departments, savings are achieved by avoiding duplicative vaccinations, improving inventory management and identifying gaps in immunizations in individual patients and population groups.

*To save lives and money, NACCHO recommends in FY2015:*

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\*

\*Figures include Working Capital Fund

#### Section 317 Immunization Program

**FY2014:** \$612 million | **FY2015 President:** \$561 million

**FY2015 NACCHO Request:** \$650 million

Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act authorizes the federal purchase of vaccines to protect children, adolescents, and adults from infectious disease. Over its 50 year history, Section 317 Program-purchased vaccine has been directed towards meeting the needs of priority populations; including most recently underinsured children not eligible for the mandatory Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, and uninsured adults.

The Section 317 Immunization Program provides grants to 50 state, 8 U.S. territory and 6 city (Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio and Washington, DC) health departments. Grants are used to purchase vaccine as well as to support infrastructure and operations at the local, state, and national levels.

Section 317 Immunization Program funding is critical to the national support structure that ensures effective, safe and timely vaccines. The Section 317 Immunization Program provides the essential infrastructure to deliver the VFC program and respond to disease outbreaks. This support is critical to ensure high vaccination coverage levels and to minimize vaccine-preventable disease.

**NACCHO supports the President's request of \$8 million within the Section 317 Immunization Program to continue support for development of billing infrastructure at local health departments that will reduce their dependency on public funding.**



### The Section 317

#### Immunization Program

plays a critical role in

keeping children,

adolescents, and adults

protected from vaccine-

preventable diseases. It

saves lives as well as dollars.

#### ***Investing in childhood vaccines produces big savings.***

*For every birth cohort vaccinated against 13 childhood diseases:*

- *Each dollar invested in vaccinations saves \$10.20*
- *42,000 lives are saved*
- *20 million cases of disease are prevented*
- *\$13.6 billion in direct costs are saved*
- *\$68.9 billion in direct plus indirect (societal) costs are saved.*

*Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

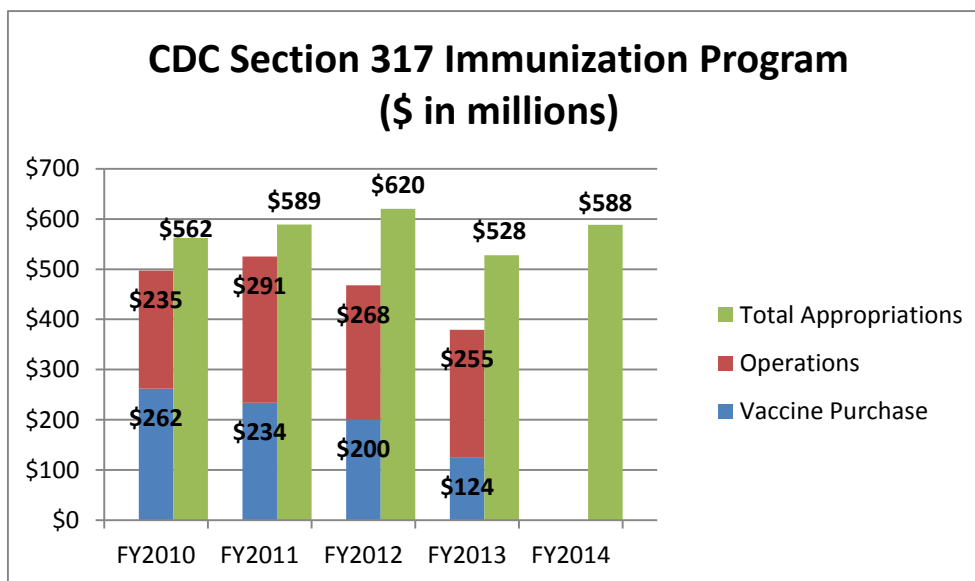
## Role of Local and State Health Departments in Immunization

The Section 317 Immunization Program provides funding for immunization operations/infrastructure and vaccine purchase. Operations and infrastructure funding supports:

- Disease surveillance and disease reporting to CDC.
- Outbreak control and response.
- Ability to respond to emergencies.
- Education of the public and health care providers.
- Immunization registries and immunization information systems.
- Capacity to implement third-party billing for reimbursement.
- Community immunization education activities and vaccination clinics.
- Implementation and enforcement of school and daycare requirements.
- Population assessment and identify pockets of need or at-risk populations.
- Special strategies to improve coverage rates in adolescents and adults.
- Program oversight, assurance of quality and accountability and evaluation of effectiveness.

### Section 317 Immunization Program Funding History

Funding for the Section 317 Immunization Program has been level for vaccine operations and infrastructure over the last several years. In FY2011, the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) was used to maintain level funding. Funding for vaccine purchase has decreased. Sufficient funding for health departments must be provided to support all grantees to maintain critical immunization programs and outbreak response and control in the face of recent events such as widespread measles and pertussis outbreaks.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

The **National Association of County and City Health Officials** is the voice of the approximately 2,800 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to prevent and control disease and ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

For more information, go to <http://naccho.org/topics/HPDP/immunization/index.cfm>.

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