



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

The Prevention and Public Health Fund in California: Impact of “American Health Care Act”

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN TO REPEAL THE ACA, THE “AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT” ELIMINATES THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND (PPHF) BY 2019

BACKGROUND

The Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), created in 2010, with the passage of the ACA, is aimed at reducing long-term health costs by supporting programs that seek to address many chronic diseases that are easily preventable.

The PPHF provides support for community based prevention, including controlling tobacco use, promoting healthy eating and active living, and providing communities with vital resources for immunizations.

House Republicans are fast-tracking the American Health Care Act, which eliminates the PPHF.

LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California received \$61.5 million in Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) funding in FY2016. The funds are used in various ways to meet the goal of reducing disparities in California (see fig. 1).



* Evidence-based health economic benefits including state-specific personal care and impact on quality
** Dollar amounts come from publicly available governmental data on the Prevention Fund and the grants it supports.



Fig. 1: Protecting the Prevention and Public Health Fund, 2016. Graph accessed at: <http://healthyamericans.org/health-issues/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/California.pdf>.

PROGRAMS AT RISK IF THE PPHF FUNDING IS REPEALED

Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH):

California received over **\$8.7 million** in REACH grants in FY 16. These grants are awarded to programs that seek to address chronic disease factors by creating culturally competent community based programs targeting African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics/Latinos, Asian Americans, Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

- One example of this was **\$500,000** awarded to Mandela Marketplace which partnered with Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, West Oakland Health Council, Oakland Unified School District and other local organizations to address a need to improve access to healthy food and beverage options in the target community.
 - **UC San Diego’s Asian Language Tobacco Quit-line:** This program which received roughly **\$1 million** is aimed at providing phone counseling

services to smokers who speak Asian languages and have low English proficiency.



Immunization Services: The California Department of Public Health received over **\$15 million** in FY2015 to improve access to vaccines for low-income adults. This program provides a safety-net for uninsured and low-income adults and allows California to respond to outbreaks in at risk unvaccinated populations.

WHAT IS AT STAKE IN CALIFORNIA

According to a report posted by the Trust for Americas Health, California stands to lose over **\$300 million** in prevention funding (based on 2016 allotment projections) over the next 5 years.¹ As you can see in fig. 2 below California will be disproportionately affected by a repeal of the PPHF.

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Amounts each state stands to lose over the next 5 years if the Prevention Fund was repealed (based on fiscal year 2016 grants to state) include:

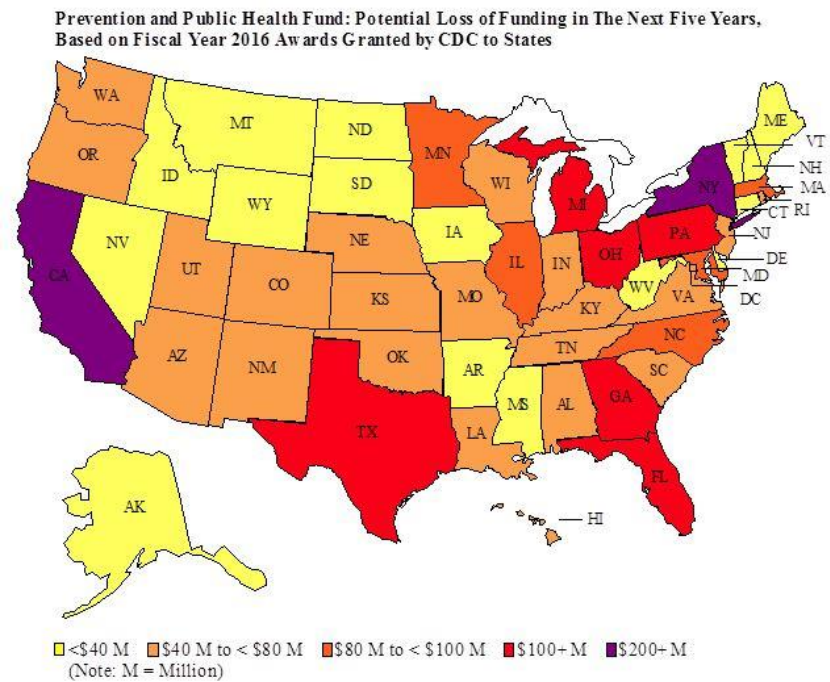


Fig. 2: Potential Loss of Funding in the Next Five years, 2016. Graph accessed at: <http://tfah.org/reports/prevention-fund-state-facts-2017/release.php?stateid=CA>.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH FUND:

Research has shown that one of the most proven ways to save lives and reduce the cost of healthcare in the United States is through prevention intervention.² A report from Trust for America's Health stated that for every \$2.9 billion invested in community-based prevention programs, the U.S. saves roughly \$16.5 billion annually.³ The resources that California and the rest of the United States receive through the PPHF are vital to ensuring all people are able to receive the care they need in order to lead healthy lives. The Fund reduces the cost of untreated, preventable chronic diseases borne by states and communities.

¹ *California Could Lose more than \$300 Million to Fight Health Epidemics over Five Years if the ACA and Prevention and Public Health Fund are Repealed*, Washington, D.C.: Trust for America's Health, 2016. Available online at: <http://tfah.org/reports/prevention-fund-state-facts-2017/release.php?stateid=CA>.

² Currie, Donya, *Prevention Saves Lives as Well as Money*, Nations Health, 2010: Available online at: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735245>.

³ Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities. Washington, D.C.: Trust for America's Health, February 2009. Available online at: <http://healthamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08.pdf>.