

The Prevention and Public Health Fund:

FOR A HEALTHIER AMERICA

Prevention saves lives, reduces health care costs, and makes the country a healthier, more productive place. More than half of Americans live with at least one serious preventable health condition, like diabetes or heart disease, which forces taxpayers to spend billions of dollars a year on health care. And, today's children are in danger of becoming the first generation in American history to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents. The Prevention and Public Health Fund enables communities around the country to invest in proven strategies to improve health. That's why the Fund has the support of more than 760 national, state and local organizations.

Combating the leading causes of chronic diseases will improve the health of Americans and reduce health care costs over the long term. The Fund will be used for programs at the local, state and federal level to reduce the rates of obesity, heart disease and stroke and tobacco use by five percent within five years.

Communities across the country often face increased health and safety threats without the resources to combat them. The Fund supports community-driven prevention efforts to reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, expand mental health and injury prevention programs and improve prevention activities.

Patients need to be able to act on their doctor's orders outside of the doctor's office. The Fund supports services and programs that allow health to be improved in our schools, neighborhoods and workplaces by making healthier choices easier choices.

Businesses benefit by having a productive, healthy workforce. Investing in the health of Americans improves the bottom line of businesses by lowering health care costs, reducing absenteeism, increasing academic achievement and improving productivity.

Public health emergencies demand a public response. The Fund enables state and local health officials to respond to emergencies that put citizens' lives and health at stake — including natural disasters, terrorist attacks, infectious diseases, and unsafe food, air and water.

Job-training and opportunities are supported to ensure the future workforce can respond to the health and safety challenges of the 21st century. The Fund provides training and financial assistance for workers, and invests in up-to-date equipment and technology, needed to protect communities from disease outbreaks and other health threats.

Every community has unique challenges. The Fund provides financial support directly to states and communities, and gives them flexibility to address their most pressing health challenges.

Flexibility must come with accountability when taxpayer dollars are at stake. The Fund invests in prevention programs that are proven and effective. Oversight and evaluation is a key component of every Fund-sponsored program, and strict performance measures ensure accountability.