



NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

NC SOPHE Advocacy Priority #2 2016-2017

The Value of Prevention Funding

“I would argue that public health is a prime example of a public good, and this notion helps us to understand the true contribution of public health to society” ...“ public health is a collective property that depends principally on the conditions that create public health rather than on any individual action” (Galea, 2016).

1. *NCSOPHE advocates for funding across all avenues of public health. According to the American Public Health Association (APHA, 2017): “For each **10 percent increase** in local public health spending-infant deaths decrease 6.9%; cardiovascular deaths decrease 3.2%; diabetes deaths decrease 1.4%; [and] cancer deaths decrease 1.1%.”*
2. *Investment in proven and scientifically endorsed federal and state programs like immunization makes great fiscal sense as well because while “vaccines are so effective, there are many fewer cases of vaccine-preventable diseases. This creates a ‘herd immunity,’ meaning that the vaccinated people are protecting the unvaccinated ones; there are fewer of the germs around to catch” (McCarthy, 2017).*
3. *While the political climate has been quite hazardous to prevention programs over the past year and a half, it is vital for health partners to realize the benefits of investment in prevention. The North Carolina Alliance for Health reports that if the Prevention and Public Health Fund were to be repealed in the context of the Affordable Care Act then North Carolina could lose:*
 - *\$85 million to counter public health crises in the next 5 years*
 - *\$17 million in annual prevention fund grants*
 - *And \$5 million in chronic disease prevention funding (NC Alliance for Health, 2017).*

As of the passage of this year’s 2017-2018 Operating Budget, the General Assembly has allocated:

- *\$2 million to the Nurse Family Partnership*
- *\$1 million in combined recurring and non-recurring funding to smoking cessation and youth tobacco prevention.*
- *\$1.3 million for the Carolina Pregnancy Care program, but a reduction in the Maternal and Child Block Grant (North Carolina Public Health Association, 2017).*

4. *It is vitally important to advocate for additional funding here in North Carolina across the state regardless of program and to advocate for prevention funding across the United States. Because without these funds we could see drastic cuts to agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (a 17% total agency cut) and to the National Institutes of Health (a 21% total agency cut). These federal agencies fund many disease and injury prevention programs in North Carolina.*

North Carolina citizens benefit from the funds dispersed from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. While the Affordable Care Act may be on its way towards a repeal or replacement, it is vitally important as a public health advocacy organization to voice our opinion that we do not support a near vapid erasure of the medical science and public health infrastructure. Therefore, NCSOPHE soundly supports the approval of additional funding into the Prevention and Public Health Fund and calls upon all members to stay informed of the legislative process, including any current decisions at the state level (www.ncleg.net), and national trends involving public health funding (www.apha.org/advocacy).

If you are unsure who represents you and wish to get in touch with them (and we encourage you to!) then please visit the North Carolina General Assembly website here:
(<http://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>)