Congress Must Act to Increase Funding for CDC 22% by 2022

22 by 22 is a campaign urging Congress to increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 22 percent by fiscal year 2022 (FY22). CDC and its state and local public health partners save lives every day by promoting optimal health for all, protecting against disease, and helping to prevent other crises. With all the health threats and challenges our nation faces today, now is the time to adequately fund CDC.

Increasing CDC’s budget is the only way to ensure our nation’s health is protected from communicable and non-communicable disease threats.

Why 22 by 22?

For the first time in two decades, American life expectancy has declined, largely due to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and drug overdoses. CDC is the only agency that works to fund state and local public health efforts to prevent these diseases—and more, not less, is needed.

Federal investment in public health has not kept pace with inflation nor the considerable challenges posed by infectious disease outbreaks, extreme weather events, and other emergencies, such as the Flint water crisis. According to a 2017 report released by the Trust for America’s Health, of the $3.36 trillion spent annually on healthcare, only 3 percent of all health spending is directed to public health, which includes federal, state, and local resources. That equates to an average of around $255 per person. By contrast, total healthcare spending is $10,345 per person.

Reductions in the public health workforce strain the ability of state and local public health departments to protect and promote the health of the population. From 2012-2016, the estimated number of full-time health agency employees decreased by 3 percent. By 2020, the percentage of health agency employees who are eligible for retirement will reach 25 percent.
The public health community requests that Congress provide $7.9 billion in FY19, an increase of $715 million in discretionary funding from FY17, to return CDC’s total funding back to 2003 levels.

A 22 percent funding increase over four years will allow CDC to better implement effective programs to address federal, state, and local public health priorities, such as:

**PREVENTING DRUG OVERDOSES**
115 Americans die every day from opioid-related drug overdoses. Increased investment in prevention is needed to curb this dangerous trend.

**SAVING LIVES AND CURBING COSTS THROUGH CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION**
Seven out of every 10 deaths each year are caused by chronic diseases. Preventable illnesses and injuries from smoking, lack of physical activity, inadequate nutrition, and harmful environmental exposures are literally killing Americans every day.

**ENHANCING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY**
In 2017, the cost for weather-related disasters exceeded $300 billion. Public health, in coordination with emergency preparedness, plays a critical role in disaster prevention, response, and recovery—and more is needed.

**COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES**
Communicable disease control is a core function of CDC and other governmental public health entities. The United States is experiencing infectious disease outbreaks on a daily basis and sexually transmitted diseases are rising at alarming rates. In 2016, reported cases of gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia increased for the third consecutive year. These diseases, in addition to emerging infectious outbreaks such as Zika, Ebola, and MERS, drain resources and challenge an already fragile public health infrastructure.

**PREVENTING AND REMEDIATING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARDS**
Complex emergencies associated with drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene trigger immediate responses due to the potential for community-wide harm and significant economic loss. Public health plays a role in preventing and responding to these crises.