

Enhanced CDC Funding for Immunization Grants

\$802.5 million urgently required to increase vaccine purchase and operations grants to state and local agencies for underserved children and adolescents.

The Need is Obvious: Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health and among the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease and reduce healthcare costs. Thanks to research breakthroughs in the past two decades we can now protect our children and adolescents from 16 diseases, while in 1987 we only had vaccines for eight diseases. Unfortunately, during the past decade, federal funding has not kept pace with the cost to implement the new recommended vaccines for children and adolescents and has never adequately funded vaccines for adults. As a result, some children and many adolescents and adults in our country are not receiving all recommended vaccinations.

The Solution is Clear: Provide \$802 million for the Section 317 Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is an increase of \$275 million over the President's request and the FY 2008 level. The additional funding would be used to enhance vaccine purchase grants to state and local health departments to cover many of the new vaccines and expanded recommendations of existing vaccines, and to increase funding for state and local operations to deliver the vaccines.

The Course is Proven: The 317 program works to ensure that children, adolescents, and adults receive appropriate immunizations by partnering with healthcare providers in the public and private sectors. The program helps assure the implementation of effective immunization practices and proper use of vaccines to achieve high immunization coverage, and supports infrastructure for essential activities such as immunization registries, outreach, disease surveillance, outbreak control, education, and service delivery. A strong immunization infrastructure ensures optimal coverage with routinely recommended vaccines.

Congress must provide enhanced funding for Section 317 vaccine grants at the CDC when it considers the FY 2009 Labor HHS Appropriations bill.



Compelling Evidence...

- In March 2008, the CDC provided a report to Congress estimating that \$1.2 billion in Section 317 funding would be needed to fully protect all of the children eligible under this program for vaccines and to enhance the adolescent and adult programs.
- For every dollar spent on seven vaccines recommended in the childhood series, \$16.50 is saved in direct and indirect costs.

About the Section 317 program...

Authorized under Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act, CDC provides grants to state and local health departments and clinics to vaccinate children, adolescents and adults who lack the means to pay for these vaccines and are not eligible for other government programs which provide vaccines.

Currently, there are 64 grantees: all 50 states, six large cities, and eight territories and former territories. The majority of the 317 program funds are used by states to conduct routine childhood programs, with a smaller portion remaining for adolescent and adult immunization programs. Therefore, despite high vaccination coverage levels among preschool-aged children, adolescent and adult vaccination levels remain considerably lower, and racial and ethnic disparities exist.

LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FOR FY 2009

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| Section 317 Immunization Program | \$802.5 M |
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The 317 Coalition seeks increased federal funding for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Section 317 Immunization Program

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| Appropriations Bill | Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies |
| Agency | Department of Health and Human Services |
| Account | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention |
| Program Name | Section 317 Immunization Program |

Requested Amount **\$802,500,000**

Authorization

42 U.S.C. 247b, (Sec. 317, Public Health Service Act as amended.)

Description

Funding is needed to expand grants to state and local health departments for vaccine purchase and operations to serve additional underserved children, adolescents and adults.

Justification

- An estimated 10 million cases of vaccine avertable diseases and 33,000 deaths are prevented each year through timely immunization. However, for those not immunized approximately 43,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die annually from vaccine-preventable diseases or their complications. Pneumonia and influenza were the fifth leading cause of death in all persons aged 65 and older based on 2000 national mortality data. Despite high immunization coverage levels for pre-school-aged children, pockets of need remain among children, adolescents, and adults.
- Who is served? Uninsured children and children on Medicaid can get free vaccines through the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), a federal entitlement program that serves about 45 percent of the population. However, while most private health insurance plans cover immunizations, some plans provide little or no coverage or include high co-payments and deductibles. Most children served through Section 317 are under-insured or their parents are working poor who cannot afford the high deductibles or co-payments required to fully vaccinate their children. Therefore, many of these children are under-immunized. The Section 317 program serves children who are not eligible for the VFC program, but can go to state and local public health departments for vaccinations. For many families, the Section 317 program means the difference between an unvaccinated child and one who receives many or the entire recommended schedule of life-saving vaccines. It is to the benefit of all of us that a child receives all recommended vaccines. When more children are protected against these diseases, there is less likelihood that they will continue to spread throughout our society.
- Due to limited funding, the Section 317 program has historically focused on childhood vaccination, but there is a growing need to provide vaccines to adolescents and adults, who are largely underserved by this program. The Section 317 program seeks to fill the gaps across the age span and ensure protection for all Americans — the rich, moderate and poorest of our nation, and those who cannot get vaccinated because of medical reasons.

Funding History (\$ Millions)

| FY 2009 (President's Budget) | FY 2008 | FY 2007 | FY 2006 | FY 2005 | FY 2004 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| \$527 | \$527 | \$513 | \$488 | \$493 | \$469 |

Additional Information > www.317coalition.org