

# HRSA Public Health Workforce Funding

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) recommend funding the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) “**Public Health Workforce**” **line-item at \$17 million in FY 2017**. This recommendation will provide level funding for two important and complementary programs:

- Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: \$7,136,000
- Public Health Training Centers: \$9,864,000

The **Public Health Training Centers Program** and **Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs** play a pivotal role in training current and future public health professionals through the delivery of specialized curricula aimed at advancing and honing the expertise of the workforce.

The funding for **Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs** supports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health in order to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. These residency training programs provide a blueprint on how to train our future physician workforce.

- Preventive medicine residents are the only medical residents whose graduate medical education (GME) costs are not fully supported by Medicare or Medicaid GME funding.
- Today, roughly 50 percent of the accredited slots for preventive medicine residency training programs go unfilled due to lack of funds to offset residency training costs.
- Recent estimates show that Preventive Medicine training programs received over seven times the number of applications than there were funded resident slots.

The **Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) Program** provides grants to accredited schools of public health to provide graduate or specialized training to frontline public health workers and managers in state, local and tribal health departments and public health agencies.

- According to ASTHO and NACCHO surveys, over 51,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost to budget cuts since 2008, or about 19 percent of the workforce. These reductions, coupled with the evolving field of public health, require public health workers to learn new skills and master new approaches through ongoing training.
- New threats arise, such as the recent Ebola and Zika outbreaks, which require the rapid deployment of specialized training that the Centers can provide. During the Ebola crisis, the PHTCs worked with HRSA and CDC to consolidate knowledge about Ebola response trainings and resources to the public health workforce. The coordinating center and the PHTC’s developed and distributed educational and training resources to address the threat.
- Funding for the PHTC network has already been cut 60 percent since FY 2012 -- from \$24.19 million that supported 37 training centers. The redesign of the program to a regional approach was required due to large funding reductions that required a “critical mass” funding level to operate centers and fewer centers overall.

**More about the Public Health Training Centers Program:** There are currently ten Regional PHTCs that have a multi-state service area model. The grantees have contractual relationships with education and training sites, called Local Performance Sites. In addition to the ten Regional PHTCs, a National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training was formed to ensure a shared vision and mission across all Regional PHTCs. This Center is jointly funded by HRSA and CDC. The PHTC Program improves the Nation’s public health system by strengthening the technical, scientific, managerial, and leadership competence of the public health workforce.

**More about Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs:** There are currently 73 accredited preventive medicine residency training programs in the United States. Programs are located in schools of medicine, schools of public health, state or local health departments, and in federal agencies and military bases. Approximately 350 residents every year complete training that includes three components: (1) a minimum of one year of clinical medicine; (2) completion of a Master of Public Health or other equivalent degree; and (3) public health field training. Preventive medicine physicians are at the forefront of efforts to integrate primary care and public health and can be found working in settings such as, federal and state agencies, health departments, community health centers, hospitals, academia, and private industry.

(in millions)

Program	2014	2015	2016	2017 Request
Public Health Training Centers	\$9.82	\$9.86	\$9.86	\$9.86
Preventive Medicine Residencies	\$7.81*	\$11.14*	\$11.14*	\$7.14
Total	\$18.17**	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$17.00

\* Included funds for integrative medicine residency programs.

\*\* Included \$2.5 million for the Public Health Traineeships.

The **Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)** is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). There are currently more than 52,000 public health students in the schools and programs that make up the ASPPH community. Our mission is to transform public health by strengthening and promoting the education, research, service, and practice activities of CEPH-accredited schools and programs.



American College of Preventive Medicine  
physicians dedicated to prevention

Founded in 1954, the **American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM)** is a professional, medical society of more than 2,700 members employed in research, academia, government, clinical settings, and other entities worldwide.

ACPM provides a dynamic forum for the exchange of knowledge among preventive medicine specialists, offers high-quality educational programs for continuing medical education (CME) and maintenance of certification (MOC), and information and resources for professional development.