



Attacking the Obesity Epidemic: FY 2011 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill

Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) - Coordinated School Health Program

Program	2009	2010	2011 President	2011 TFAH
Coordinated School Health Program	\$13,200,000	\$13,200,000	\$13,200,000	\$33,200,000

Overview:

CDC’s Division of Adolescent and School Health’s (DASH) Coordinated School Health Program (CSHP) provides funding to 22 states and one tribal government to strengthen the ability of state and local education agencies to address critical health issues, including obesity, asthma, tobacco use, HIV, STDs, and teen pregnancy, by building the capacity of funded partners to support science-based, cost-effective health programming. Examples of program objectives include: development of nutritional standards that restrict the availability of less nutritious foods and sugar sweetened beverages, implementation of quality physical education programs, and adoption of 100 percent tobacco-free schools policies.

DASH is unique among CDC divisions in that it works with both education and health agencies and national organizations. Key strategies include:

- Collecting, analyzing, and disseminating national, state, and local surveillance data used to develop and monitor school health programs across the nation;
- Supporting research to evaluate the impact of innovative school health strategies;
- Synthesizing research findings to identify effective school health policies and practices and providing technical assistance and professional development to help schools implement them; and
- Developing tools to help schools implement evidence-based policies and practices.

Results:

School health programs have shown to be cost effective. For example, an economic evaluation of school programs to prevent cigarette use among middle and high school students showed that for every dollar invested in school tobacco prevention programs, almost \$20 in medical care costs would be saved.

Recent Funding History:

DASH’s Coordinated School Health Program was level -funded in FY 2010. However, in FY 2009 DASH received an additional \$3 million outside of the CSHP to conduct the Healthy Passages Study, a unique multi-year study that follows a group of fifth grade students through age 20 to improve the understanding of what factors help keep children healthy. Results will inform the development of effective policies and programs to improve the health and development of children, adolescents, and adults.

Recommendation:

Provide \$33,200,000 (an increase of \$20,000,000) for CDC's Coordinated School Health Program to increase DASH capacity to improve child and adolescent health. With additional funding, CDC would fund 15 additional state education agencies and 25 additional local education agencies and one tribal government to implement CDC guidelines and tools to address tobacco use, obesity, nutrition and physical activity.

Even just a \$5 million increase would enable CDC to fund 10 additional state education agencies to reach more children and youth through quality school health programs. Funds would also support one to two regional training centers for increased technical assistance to funded states and local agencies.