



Attacking the Obesity Epidemic: FY 2011 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill

Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO)

Agency	Program	2009	2010	2011 President	2011 TFAH
CDC	DNPAO	\$44,300,000	\$44,991,000	\$43,663,000	\$90,000,000

Overview:

CDC's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity (DNPAO) funds nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention and control activities in 25 states. Grants allow state health departments to design, implement, evaluate and disseminate effective strategies, such as making policy changes to encourage access to healthy foods and venues to be active, and strengthening obesity prevention and control programs in preschools, child care centers, work sites and other community settings. Grantees are required to create, implement and monitor a nutrition, physical activity and obesity state plan; monitor the prevalence of overweight, obesity, nutrition quality and physical activity levels; and monitor the impact of their program in changing overweight and obesity related behaviors, including evaluating progress and effectiveness of their annual work plan.

DNPAO provides consultation, technical assistance and training to states, as well as information regarding best practices.

Results:

States funded by DNPAO have leveraged \$2 for every \$1 of CDC funding. In addition, funded states are creating healthier environments for their residents. For example:

- DNPAO's support for North Carolina has contributed to the development and successful implementation of North Carolina's Eat Smart, Move More (ESMM) state plan to prevent overweight, obesity and related chronic diseases. Since 2000, 157 Eat Smart, Move More community grants totaling approximately \$1.8 million have been awarded to local health departments and community partners. Each year, the ESMM Community Grants program provides up to \$20,000 each to 10–20 local health departments through a competitive application process. The grants support multi-level interventions—projects that make changes to policies and environments (e.g., workplaces, schools) while also educating community members about healthy behavior.

Out of the 20 community grant recipients in 2007–2008, the vast majority reported increases in physical activity among their target population, and half reported increases in fruit and vegetable consumption among the target population. Collectively, grantees implemented 47 new policies or practices (e.g., policies to improve physical activity promotion, nutrition education, and food/beverage choices) and 20 physical changes to facilities (e.g., the establishment or enhancement of parks, recreational equipment, greenways, trails, and paths for walking and biking). These 20 mini-grants reached over 13,000 people in North Carolina. Furthermore, 60% of grant-funded interventions enabled community coalitions to leverage additional funds

- Since receiving funding from CDC in 2003, New York has made a number of legislative changes aimed at obesity prevention including:

- A law, passed in 2007, to protect nursing mothers' rights to express breast milk at work and require employers to provide reasonable time and location for employees to do so;
- An amendment to education requiring body mass index (BMI) and weight status reports on student health appraisals in Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th, and 10th grades; and
- Laws requiring menu labeling in restaurants in five New York City jurisdictions (New York City and Westchester, Rockland, Ulster and Suffolk counties).

Recent Funding History:

In 2008, CDC made a strategic decision to increase funding levels for DNPAO grantees to show greater health impact through policy and environmental change. For the grant cycle that began in July of 2008, CDC reduced the number of funded states from 28 to 23. With the additional \$2.1 million provided in the FY 2009 omnibus, CDC was able to provide funding for two additional states and now funds 25 states.

Recommendation:

Given the tremendous health and economic toll of obesity, all 50 states should be funded for obesity planning and prevention activities. An increase in funding in FY11 for DNPAO will help expand the number of jurisdictions implementing policy and environmental strategies-to reduce the population-level burden of obesity, improve nutrition and physical activity.