



***FY 2011 Labor HHS Appropriations Bill***

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Health Prevention Corps**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011 President</b>	<b>2011 TFAH</b>
CDC	Health Prevention Corps	0	0	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000

**Background:** Governmental health departments are facing significant workforce shortages. The recent H1N1 outbreak has underscored the need for a well-trained public health workforce. Yet, to respond to the outbreak, a large infusion of supplemental funds was needed to fill in holes caused by perennial workforce shortages in state and local public health departments.

According to a 2009 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials survey, 11,000 public health jobs will not be filled due to budget shortfalls and hiring freezes. The latest job loss survey by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) found that local health departments lost 8,000 jobs in the second half of 2009—compounding the loss of another 8,000 positions in the first half of the year. Meanwhile, a study by Health Management Associates found a variety of cutbacks being taken at the local level, including, but not limited to personnel cuts and reduced hours or mandatory furloughs.

It is estimated that one-third of the public health workforce will be eligible to retire within five years and twenty percent of the public health workforce in local health departments will be eligible to retire within two years. A study by the Association of Schools of Public Health estimates that by 2020 state and local health departments will need an additional 250,000 public health workers. Clearly, we must increase the number of frontline public health workers and other health professionals in state and local health departments to address ongoing and emerging health challenges

**Proposed Initiative:** To address the workforce shortages in state and local health departments, the President’s FY 11 budget proposes a new workforce program, the Health Prevention Corps, which will recruit new talent into service for state and local health departments and provide the building blocks for creating a stronger workforce. The program will target disciplines with known shortages, such as epidemiology, environmental health and laboratory. FY 2011 funding will be used to establish a management plan for staffing and program administration, convene stakeholders to establish the program framework, and develop a curriculum for Corps members. This new program will also address retention by requiring professionals to commit to a designated timeframe (as determined by CDC) in state and local health departments as a condition of the fellowship.

**Funding Recommendation:** Provide \$10 million for the Health Prevention Corps, as proposed in the President’s FY 2011 budget to address workforce shortages in state and local health departments.