



Improving Pandemic Preparedness

Department of Health and Human Services

	2010	2011 President	2011 TFAH
CDC	\$156,000,000	\$156,000,000	\$156,000,000
FDA	\$39,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$45,000,000
NIH	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
Office of the Secretary	\$65,000,000	\$66,000,000	\$66,000,000
BARDA	\$341,000,000	\$476,000,000	\$500,000,000

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness:

The recent H1N1 flu outbreak demonstrated how rapidly a new strain of flu can emerge and spread around the world. The sudden outbreak of this novel flu virus has tested the world’s public health preparedness. H1N1 provided a real-world test that showed the strengths and vulnerabilities in the abilities of the United States and the rest of the world to respond to a major infectious disease outbreak.

Prior pandemic preparedness investments resulted in the development of medical countermeasures that have been used in the H1N1 response. In addition, supplemental appropriations, including \$1.85 billion in direct appropriations and \$5.8 billion in contingent appropriations, have been used for response activities, including vaccine production, distribution and administration; antiviral drugs; surveillance; communications and community mitigation; and laboratory support for virus detection. Continuing our annual pandemic flu preparedness activities at CDC, FDA, NIH and the Office of the Secretary will help strengthen our preparedness and response during any future outbreaks.

Recommendation:

Provide \$156 million for CDC, \$45 million for FDA, \$35 million for NIH, and \$66 million for the Office of the Secretary, as proposed in the President’s budget to expand international and domestic surveillance and detection capabilities, including the identification of vaccine virus strains; identify emerging viruses with pandemic potential; accelerate research and development of rapid diagnostic tests; improve pandemic preparedness and response, as well as our ability to contain a potential pandemic; and support international efforts to strengthen vaccine manufacturing infrastructure, expand surveillance systems, and improve pandemic influenza preparedness and response capabilities.

This funding request is in addition to the unspent balances from the FY 2009 supplemental, which should be used to continue the advanced development of antiviral drugs and influenza vaccines, and to ensure that the U.S. has sufficient vaccine manufacturing capacity in the event of a pandemic.

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA):

BARDA was established in 2006 to help jumpstart a new cycle of innovation in vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics in order to combat health threats. BARDA provides incentives and guidance for research and development of products to counter bioterrorism and pandemic flu and manages Project BioShield, which includes the procurement and advanced development of medical countermeasures for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. According to an analysis by the Center for Biosecurity, BARDA’s current level of funding has allowed The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to establish the infrastructure necessary to support advanced research and development of medical countermeasures. However, funding has been insufficient to support the successful development

of a whole range of medical countermeasures. To achieve the goals identified in HHS' Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Implementation Plan, BARDA would need \$3.39 billion to have a 90 percent chance of developing successful medical countermeasures for each biodefense requirement set forth in the plan. This investment would need to be sustained.

Recommendation:

Provide \$500 million for BARDA, within the Office of the ASPR, as a starting point to build toward higher levels of funding that must ultimately be allocated and sustained. These funds would support research on additional countermeasures for biological threat agents, volatile nerve agents and radiological and nuclear threats. Funding will be targeted to countermeasure development in the high priority areas of anthrax, enhanced biothreats and acute radiation syndrome.

The President's budget proposed that funding be made available from current BioShield Special Reserve Fund balances to fund BARDA and would permit the Secretary to make additional BioShield funds available for advanced research and development activities after notification of Congress in order to enable BARDA to target resources to the most promising countermeasure candidates. TFAH supports this request.