

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) COALITION

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Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Request

The CDC Coalition is a nonpartisan coalition of more than 100 groups committed to strengthening our nation's prevention and health promotion programs. Our mission is to ensure that health promotion and disease prevention are given top priority in federal funding, to support a funding level for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that enables it to carry out its prevention mission, and to assure an adequate translation of new research into effective state and local programs. Coalition member groups represent millions of public health workers, researchers, educators, and citizens served by CDC programs. **For fiscal year 2008, the CDC Coalition supports a funding level of \$10.7 billion** (including funding for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Vaccines for Children Program) for CDC. This request does not include additional funding that may be needed to expand the mandatory Vaccines for Children Program (VFC).

CDC is faced with unprecedented challenges and responsibilities, ranging from chronic disease prevention, eliminating health disparities, bioterrorism preparedness, to combating the obesity epidemic. In addition, CDC funds community programs in injury control; health promotion efforts in schools and workplaces; initiatives to prevent heart disease, cancer, stroke, and other chronic diseases; improvements in nutrition and immunization; programs to monitor and combat environmental effects on health; interventions to improve oral health; prevention of birth defects; public health research; strategies to prevent antimicrobial resistance and infectious diseases; and data collection and analysis on a host of vital statistics and other health indicators. It is notable that more than 70 percent of CDC's budget supports state and local health organizations and academic institutions.

CDC serves as the command center for our nation's public health defense system against emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. From pandemic flu preparedness and prevention activities to West Nile to smallpox to SARS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is the nation's -- and the world's -- expert resource and response center, coordinating communications and action and serving as the laboratory reference center. States and communities rely on CDC for accurate information and direction in a crisis or outbreak.

The CDC Coalition believes that CDC programs are crucial to the health of millions of Americans, key to maintaining a strong public health infrastructure, and essential in protecting us from threats to our health. We are grateful for your support in the past and urge you to support a **funding level of \$10.7 billion (plus any additional funding needed for the mandatory VFC program) for CDC in fiscal year 2008.**