NACCHO
National Association of County & City Health Officials

Prevention Funds in Stimulus Are Good for the Economy

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Washington, DC (February 18, 2009)—
The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) commends the U.S. Congress and the Obama Administration for including $1 billion for prevention and wellness in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009. These funds will benefit the public's health by adding or restoring public health jobs and ensuring the operation of prevention programs that keep healthcare costs in check.

"The decision to include an investment in prevention in the stimulus strategy sets the stage for further emphasis on public health as the health reform debate continues," said Robert M. Pestronk, executive director of NACCHO. "By protecting jobs in local health departments, which have already lost 7,000 public health workers, this investment is also an innovative way to stimulate local economies, where health department employees spend their salaries and keep communities healthy. Moreover, it will shore up the healthcare safety net, because more unemployed workers and their families turn to local health departments for health services when unemployment rates soar."

"In addition to enabling a much-needed investment in local and state health departments, the bill will prevent costly disease and disability in many other ways," added Pestronk. "Each person's health status is determined by a large number of factors. Where we live, where we go to school, and how much money we earn influence how healthy we are, as does our access to healthy food and clean water."

The bill subsidizes many strategies for helping the nation's communities to become healthier by including initiatives to assure clean drinking water, increase job opportunities, provide housing for the homeless and food for the hungry, and improve education. The economic stimulus bill in its entirety is good for the public's health and good for the economy, because a healthy workforce is essential to a healthy economy.

NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation's nearly 3,000 local health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.

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American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
Public health-related provisions

Department of Health and Human Services
Prevention and Wellness Fund $1 billion (including the following)
$300 million for the CDC 317 immunization program
$50 million to states to reduce healthcare associated infections
$650 million to carry out evidence-based clinical and community-based prevention and wellness strategies authorized by the Public Health Service Act as determined by the Secretary, that deliver specific, measurable health outcomes that address chronic disease rates.

Health Workforce Training
$500 million including $300 million for the National Health Service Corps and $200 million for all the disciplines trained through the primary care medicine and dentistry program, the public health and preventive medicine program, the scholarship and loan repayment programs authorized in Title VII (Health Professions) and Title VIII (Nurse Training) of the Public Health Service Act, and grants to training programs for equipment. Funds may also be used to foster cross-State licensing agreements for healthcare specialists.

Health Information Technology
$2 billion total
$20 million: advancing health care information enterprise integration through activities such as technical standards analysis and establishment of conformance testing infrastructure
$300 million: regional or sub-national efforts toward health information exchange.
Operating plan delivered within 90 days of enactment.
Operating plan shall describe how expenditures are aligned with the specific objectives, milestones, and metrics of the Federal Health Information Technology Strategic Plan, including any subsequent updates to the Plan; the allocation of resources within the Department of Health and Human Services and other Federal agencies; and the identification of programs and activities that are supported.

Community Health Centers
$1.5 billion: community health centers to renovate and repair buildings and acquisition of health information technology
$500 million: provision of health care services by CHCs

Indian Health
$85 million for health information technology for Indian Health Services
$415 million for Indian Health Facilities

<u>Provisions in other federal departments</u>
Transit

New Construction: $750 million for Capital Investment Grants for new commuter rail or other light rail systems to increase public use of mass transit and to speed projects already in construction. The Federal Transit Administration has $2.4 billion in pre-approved projects.

Upgrades and Repair: $750 million to modernize existing transit systems, including renovations to stations, security systems, computers, equipment, structures, signals, and communications. Funds will be distributed through the existing formula. The repair backlog is nearly $50 billion.

Transit Capital Assistance: $6.9 billion to purchase buses and equipment needed to increase public transportation and improve intermodal and transit facilities. The Department of Transportation estimates $3.2 billion maintenance backlog and $9.2 billion in needed improvements.

Clean Water
$4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and $2 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

$3.8 billion in loans and grants for water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas. Of this amount, $2.8 billion is for direct loans and $968 million is for grants.

Environmental Cleanup
Superfund Hazardous Waste Cleanup: $600 million to clean up hazardous and toxic waste sites that threaten health and the environment. EPA has 1,255 sites on its National Priority List, selected based on a hazard ranking system. There are many Superfund sites ready for construction, but not funded due to budget shortfalls and over 600 sites with ongoing construction that could be accelerated.
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks: $200 million for enforcement and cleanup of petroleum leaks from underground storage tanks at approximately 1,600 additional sites. There are an estimated 116,000 sites with the potential to contaminate important water supplies.
Brownfields: $100 million for competitive grants for evaluation and cleanup of former industrial and commercial sites - turning them from problem properties to productive community use.

Labor
Workforce Investment Act Training and Employment Services
Dislocated Workers: $1.3 billion is provided to allow States and localities to provide training and reemployment services to dislocated workers.

High Growth and Emerging Industry Sectors: $750 million is provided for a new program of competitive grants for worker training, of which $500 million is designated for projects that prepare workers for careers in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries specified in the Green Jobs Act of 2007. Priority consideration for the balance of funds will be given to projects that prepare workers for careers in the health

care sector, which continues to grow despite the economic downturn. *(Note: Health care is not defined.)*

Community Service Employment for Older Americans
$120 million
The Community Service Employment for Older Americans program provides grants to public and private nonprofit organizations in order to subsidize part-time work in community service for low-income seniors.

Physical Facilities
Community Development Block Grants
$1 billion
Facilitates transfer of funds to local governments for critical housing, services and infrastructure needs. These dollars will help to support community services, will provide infrastructure dollars for local governments, and will help to stem the number of foreclosures in local communities.

Lead-Based Paint Hazards
$100 million
Funding will be awarded competitively to states and local governments to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in low-income housing and to nonprofit organizations to leverage private sector resources to eliminate lead poisoning as a public health threat to children.

Rural Community Facilities Program
$1,234,000,000 in loans and grants for essential rural community facilities including hospitals, health clinics, health and safety vehicles and equipment, Public buildings and child and elder care facilities. Of this amount, $1,171,000,000 is for direct community facility loans and $63,000,000 is for community facility grants.

Assistance for Individuals Impacted by Economic Downturn
Community Services Block Grant
$1 billion
The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) supports employment, food, housing, health, and emergency assistance to low-income families and individuals (including those without children who do not qualify for other types of assistance like Medicaid), the homeless, and the elderly.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infants, And Children (WIC)
$500 million **--** including $400 million for expected increases in caseload and $100 million for Management Information Systems (MIS)

Medicaid Aid to States (FMAP): $87 billion to states, increasing through the end of FY 2010 the share of Medicaid costs the Federal government reimburses all states by 4.8 percent, with additional relief tied to rates of unemployment.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance: $19.9 billion to provide a 13% increase in nutrition assistance to modest-income families and to lift restrictions that limit the amount of time individuals can receive food stamps.

Senior Nutrition Programs: $100 million for formula grants to states for elderly nutrition services including Meals on Wheels and Congregate Meals.

School Lunch Program: $100 million to provide schools with assistance in purchasing equipment with priority for low-income schools.

Emergency Food Assistance Program: $150 million to purchase commodities for food banks to refill emptying shelves.