

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Baldwin, and Ranking Member Capito:

The undersigned organizations and communities working to promote the health of all individuals **urge you to provide at least \$102.5 million in the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program.** Specifically, we request **\$75.5 million for CDC's core REACH** grant program and **\$27 million for its affiliated program Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC)** to address the disproportionate impact of chronic disease on racial and ethnic populations in urban, rural, and tribal areas.

REACH recipients (which include community-based organizations, universities, local health departments, tribal organizations, and cities) develop and implement evidence-based practices and provide resources to communities to identify and implement solutions to reduce health disparities. REACH grantees plan and carry out locally driven, culturally appropriate programs to address the root causes of chronic disease and reduce health disparities among people who are African American or Black, Hispanic or Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian or Alaska Natives.

Since 1999, REACH has been a model CDC program using community-level strategies that are evidence-based or evidence informed to eliminate and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in chronic disease and related risk factors (i.e., tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity). Key REACH outcomes during the first 4 years of the current REACH grant period (October 2018 to August 2022) include:

- 842,746 people impacted by healthy nutrition standards implemented in community settings;
- 2,164,737 people served by new or enhanced places providing access to healthier foods;

- 8,065,251 people reached through activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations;
- 1,042,178 people benefited from new or improved breastfeeding support programs;
- 28,030 patients linked to community-based services by their health care providers; and
- 1,021,884 employees work in settings with new or strengthened smoke-free and tobacco-free policies.

American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) populations bear a disproportionate burden of the leading causes of death and disability compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Since FY 2017, Congress has therefore set aside a portion of REACH funding to support the Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC) non-add line. This funding line supports tribal cooperative agreements that improve health outcomes for AI/AN communities, through the Healthy Tribes program, which includes GHWIC, Tribal Practices for Wellness in Indian Country, and the Tribal Epidemiology Centers Public Health Infrastructure. These three activities of the Healthy Tribes program are administered by CDC's Division of Population Health. CDC's largest investment to improve AI/AN tribal health, the GHWIC program promotes evidence-based and culturally adapted strategies to improve health and well-being, reduce chronic disease, and strengthen community-clinical linkages.

We thank the L-HHS Subcommittee for the funding increase in FY 2023 that provided \$44.95 million for the core REACH program and \$24 million for GHWIC. While we are grateful for the support, it still falls short of being able to fund a program in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Moreover, in the latest round of REACH applications, there were 264 approved but unfunded applications, demonstrating the significant demand and need for culturally tailored and community driven programs such as REACH. In addition, while there are 574 federally recognized tribes, Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country can only fund 35 tribes directly and supports other tribes through funding 12 tribal organizations, 17 Urban Indian Organizations and 12 Tribal Epidemiology Centers.

**We are urging Congress to provide at least \$102.5 million for the REACH program in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill.** This includes \$75.5 million for the core REACH program and would allow CDC to fund an additional 33 REACH recipients; and provides \$27 million for GHWIC to expand Tribal Epidemiology Centers for Public Health Infrastructure and continue the program's important work.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and your support for the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities to create a healthy and equitable future for all communities.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs  
Alliance of NYS YMCAs  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Physical Therapy Association

Andrea Murray  
Bodega and Small Business Group  
Bronx Eats, Inc.  
church alive dev corp  
Church of God of Prophecy  
Citadel of God Almighty (COGA Cathedral)  
City of Minneapolis  
Colorado YMCA State Alliance  
Common Threads  
Community Connections NYC  
Corbin Hill Food Project, Inc.  
Cornell University Cooperative Extension-NYC  
Creighton University  
CT/RI Alliance of YMCAs  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Eastchester Presbyterian Church  
Florida State Alliance of YMCAs  
Georgia Alliance of YMCAs  
Greater Flint Health Coalition  
Groundswell at King of Glory Tabernacle  
Hawai'i Alliance of YMCA's  
Health People  
Healthy Savannah  
HIV Prevention Center  
Hope House Treatment Centers  
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs  
Indiana Alliance of YMCAs  
Institute for Family Health  
Iowa Alliance of YMCAs  
Jamaica Benevolent Arm and Cultural Center  
Just Harvest  
Kansas State Alliance of YMCAs  
Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy, Teachers College, Columbia University  
Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center  
Minnesota Alliance of YMCAs  
MissionthreeSixteens Inc  
Missouri State Alliance of YMCAs  
MS Public Health Institute  
Multnomah County Health Department  
N.A.P.F.E.  
NAPFE, DISTRICT EIGHT  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation of Michigan  
National Network of Public Health Institutes

National REACH Coalition  
National Women's Health Network  
NC Alliance of YMCAs  
New Covenant Community Development Corporation  
Oklahoma Alliance of YMCAs  
PATHHSEO,Inc.  
Pennsylvania State Alliance of YMCAs  
Pittsburgh Food Policy Council  
Presbyterian Healthcare Services  
Prevention Institute  
Public Health Advocates  
Public Health Institute  
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness  
RUSSELL INSTITUTIONAL CME CHURCH  
South Carolina Alliance of YMCAs  
Southern Nevada Health District  
St. Helena Catholic Church  
St. Helena Food Pantry  
State Alliance of Michigan YMCAs  
State Alliance of Nebraska YMCAs  
State Alliance of North Dakota YMCAs  
State Alliance of South Dakota YMCAs  
Thessalonica Christian Church  
Trust for America's Health  
Virginia Alliance of YMCAs  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wings of Redemption Ministry  
Word Of Life International Inc.  
Worldwide Movement Father Son & Holy Spirit  
YMCA Alliance of Northern New England  
YMCA of Coastal Georgia  
YMCA of Delaware  
YMCA of Northern Utah  
YMCA of Southern Nevada  
YMCA of the Chesapeake  
YMCA of the USA  
Zero Breast Cancer