

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG) Talking Points

Save the Block



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

- **The PHHSBG is a vital source of funding for state health agencies that allows each state to address its most critical public health needs and to provide support for essential community level work.**
- The PHHSBG provides the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with \$4.5 million in critical funding to tailor prevention and health promotion programs to Ohio's particular public health needs. The block grant has been zeroed out in the President's FY 2012 budget request.
- According to the Trust for America's Health, Ohio ranks 50th in the nation in federal funding from the CDC and 41st in state funding for public health.
- In Ohio, funds are used for a wide range of essential and evidence-based activities including:
 - Reducing the incidence of chronic disease and obesity;
 - Combating prescription drug abuse, falls among older adults, child injury and other leading causes of injury; and
 - Preventing sexual assault and intimate partner violence.
- While new categorical funding opportunities may be available to support specific public health initiatives, these opportunities are competitive and all states are not guaranteed funding.
- Injury and violence prevention efforts in Ohio and across the country will be particularly harmed by the loss of the PHHSBG because there are no other funding sources available to absorb the loss.

The PHHSBG in Combating Prescription Drug Abuse

- The PHHSBG is also used to address emerging public health issues. For example, in Ohio the PHHSBG provides state-level capacity for injury surveillance efforts enabling ODH to analyze dramatic data related to the prescription drug overdose epidemic in Ohio.
- The PHHSBG provides the funding to support program staff to develop and coordinate a state-level coalition related to prescription drug abuse and to support local pilot projects aimed at high risk areas of the state.
- These efforts have led to significant policy changes in Ohio to address this growing epidemic.

The PHHSBG in Addressing Obesity and Chronic Disease

- The PHHSBG is also used to address obesity and chronic disease in our local communities. In Ohio, more than 30 percent of the state's third graders are classified as overweight or obese and it is estimated that almost half of all Ohioans will be obese by 2018.
- PHHSBG funding is used to support the Ohio Department of Health's Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Program to address obesity and chronic disease by mobilizing stakeholders at the county-level to create communities that support healthy living.
- Efforts at the community level have led to hundreds of policy changes and health promotion projects in schools, worksites, communities and health care settings to provide children and adults more opportunities to improve nutrition, increase physical activity and to prevent tobacco use and exposure.