

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
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 43 undersigned organizations and communities working to promote the health of all individuals **urge you to provide at least \$79.3 million in the fiscal year (FY) 2027 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 **\$51.3 million for CDC's core REACH** grant program and fund **\$28 million for its affiliated program Good Health and Wellness in Indian Country (GHWIC).** These programs support important locally-led efforts to improve health and well-being and reduce healthcare spending.

The REACH program, founded in 1999, is a community-driven approach to reducing rates of chronic disease for groups experiencing disproportionately high chronic disease rates. REACH grantees, which include community-based organizations, universities, local health departments, tribal organizations, and cities, develop and implement practices and provide resources to communities to identify and implement solutions to improve health outcomes. REACH grantees plan and carry out locally tailored programs to address the root causes of chronic disease in rural, urban and suburban communities.

REACH has been a cost-effective CDC program using evidence-based community-level strategies to drive success. Key REACH outcomes during the previous REACH grant period (October 2018 to September 2023) include:

- More than 2,000,000 additional people have access to healthier foods;
- More than 1,000,000 people are working in settings with new tobacco-free policies;
- Over 1,000,000 additional people live or work in communities with updated healthy nutrition standards;

- Approximately 1,000,000 people are benefiting from breastfeeding support programs; and
- Over 40,000 people have been linked to community-based services by their health care providers.

American Indian and Alaska 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 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.

We are urging Congress to provide at least \$79.3 million for the REACH program in the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. \$51.3 million for the core REACH program would allow CDC to fund an additional 7 REACH recipients; and \$28 million for GHWIC would 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 working to eliminate chronic diseases in communities across the country.

Sincerely,

Trust for America's Health
 Prevention Institute
 YMCA of the USA
 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
 American Association on Health and Disability
 American Public Health Association
 Accessia Health
 ADAP Advocacy Association
 American Heart Association
 America Walks
 AMWA
 Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
 Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
 Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
 Based Analytics LLC
 Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands (US Affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions)
 Center for Science in the Public Interest
 Choose Healthy Life
 Creighton University
 Defend Public Health
 Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, George Washington University School of Public Health
 Equality California
 Gerontological Society of America
 Health E Strategies

I am health education
Jump IN for Healthy Kids
Just Harvest
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Lakeshore Foundation
Multnomah County Health Department
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Farm to School Network
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Partnership for a Healthier America
PlusInc
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Institute
Smart Growth America
Society for Public Health Education
The Praxis Project
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
Washington State Public Health Association