

Prevention and Public Health Fund: National Network(s) of Community-Based Organizations Support Strategies to Reduce Chronic Disease and Health Disparities

The Affordable Care Act created Community Transformation Grants (CTG) to support communities in implementing effective strategies to reduce preventable chronic diseases and the risk factors that lead to them, such as tobacco use and obesity. By promoting healthy lifestyles in communities nationwide, especially among population groups experiencing the greatest burden of chronic disease, these grants will help improve health, reduce health disparities, and lower health care costs.

As part of the five-year CTG initiative, national networks of community-based organizations will be funded to amplify outreach and to disseminate proven community transformation strategies through their national networks. Funded national networks will support the dissemination of practice and evidence-based strategies and will increase the number of people and communities that will benefit from the program.

The High Cost of Chronic Disease and the Need for Prevention

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for 7 of 10 deaths among Americans each year. Treatment for people with chronic conditions account for about 75 percent of the more than \$2.5 trillion spent annually on U.S. medical care costs. Obesity is a significant health care cost driver – annual obesity-related medical spending is estimated at \$147 billion. With disease risk often related to economic, social, and physical factors, many people engage in behaviors – such as tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and alcohol abuse – that lead to poor health and contribute to chronic disease.

Investments in effective prevention strategies offer our nation the best opportunity to improve the health of Americans and control health care spending. A report from Trust for America's Health, *Prevention for a Healthier America*, concluded that investing \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs that increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within 5 years, representing a return on investment of more than 5 to 1.

Community Transformation Grants: National Network(s) of Community-Based Organizations

The Funding Opportunity Announcement will fund a total of \$4.2 million annually. Two activity areas, Part A and Part B, exist and eligible entities may apply for both activity areas or for a single area. CDC will fund 1-4 awards for part A and 1-3 awards for part B. To be eligible, a national network of community-based organizations must have a specific charge from its executive board or governing body to operate nationally within the United States and/or its Territories and have local affiliates, offices, or chapters, in a minimum of 85% of states and territories, with the exception of minority organizations.

Minority serving organizations that have local affiliates and chapters in at least four states and have the ability to reach at least 30% of their selected racial and ethnic population are also eligible to apply. The dissemination of programmatic, policy, environmental, and infrastructure strategies outlined within the Community Transformation Grant will initiate community-wide change through the organizations' local affiliates, as well as through the organizations' national infrastructure and through its partner organizations.

Types of Awards

The Community Transformation Grant (CTG) National Network for Community-Based Organizations will support two categories of activities: Part A: using national networks to disseminate CTG strategies and leverage existing resources and Part B: accelerating the spread and reach of CTG strategies in communities nationwide.

Part A: Using national networks to disseminate CTG strategies and leverage existing resources.

Successful applicants will support, disseminate, and amplify the policy, environmental, programmatic, and infrastructure strategies of the CTG program nationally, including rural and frontier areas and for those experiencing health disparities, by engaging and collaborating with the governmental, private, and non-governmental sector (e.g., other national membership organizations, businesses and corporations, foundations, and other appropriate organizations). Community-based organizations will focus on three priority strategic CTG directions— tobacco-free living, active living and healthy eating, and high impact clinical and other preventive services, specifically the control of high blood pressure and cholesterol. Applying effective strategies nationally will help create a distribution of proven strategies and interventions. Over time, health-promoting changes will become common practice in the daily decisions of people. Up to four organizations will receive awards averaging \$300,000.

Part B: Accelerating the spread and reach of CTG strategies in communities nationwide.

Successful applicants will utilize and leverage the existing infrastructure of national networks of community-based organizations to replicate and disseminate CTG strategies to additional communities. This extension of CTG provides an efficient vehicle to help meet substantial community demand for participation in CTG and will extend the geographic reach of CTG, including to rural and frontier areas and areas with health disparities. Funded organizations will support local sub-recipients through appropriate mechanisms established by their procurement procedures to replicate and disseminate CTG strategies locally. It is anticipated that awardees will make awards to five-ten local affiliates (of the national network of community based organizations) or other organizations located in areas to be served. Part B awards will be made to up to three organizations with the average award being \$1,000,000. At least 50% of this award will be given to sub-recipients. CDC anticipates that each sub-recipient will receive an award less than or equal to \$50,000.

Supporting Administration Priorities on Prevention

The Community Transformation Grants are one component of a comprehensive effort by the Obama Administration to address the health and well-being of our communities through initiatives such as the President's Childhood Obesity Task Force, the First Lady's Let's Move! Campaign, the National Prevention Strategy, the National Quality Strategy, and HHS' Communities Putting Prevention to Work program. The Prevention and Public Health Fund within the Affordable Care Act is supporting this FOA and other initiatives designed to expand and sustain the our nation's capacity to prevent disease, ensure early detection, manage conditions before they become severe, and provide States and communities the resources they need to promote healthy living. For more information about how the Fund is helping promote prevention in every State, visit

www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/prevention02092011a.html.

For More Information

For more information on this funding opportunity, visit www.Grants.gov and search for CDC-RFA-DP11-1115PPHF11. Applications are due July 22, 2011 and awards will be announced in late September. For more information about the grants, including a list of frequently asked questions, visit www.cdc.gov/communitytransformation/network.