



March 27, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Chairman Cole, Vice Chair Murray, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations write to thank you for your previous funding support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Asthma Control Program (NACP) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and ask for your strong support again in FY2027. Specifically, we ask you to provide a \$6.5 million increase in funding for CDC's NACP, bringing funding to \$40 million for FY27.

The NACP is the only federal program dedicated to asthma prevention and surveillance and provides an exceptional return on investment – saving more than \$70 in healthcare costs for every \$1 spent. With an increased focus on reducing the burden of chronic disease and associated healthcare costs, this program exemplifies the type of cost-effective, evidence-based solution we need more of – not less. The long-term financial consequences of cutting this program far exceed the investment required to sustain it.

Asthma affects nearly 28 million people in the U.S., including 4.75 million children. Every year, asthma leads to nearly 1.8 million emergency department visits, more than 94,000 hospitalizations, and an estimated \$80 billion in healthcare costs, lost productivity and premature death. The disease also accounts for over 7.9 million missed school days and 10.9 million missed workdays.

Since its creation in 1999, the NACP has helped reduce asthma deaths by 44%. Today the program supports asthma control activities in 29 states, helping states build data-driven programs that identify those most at risk and implement interventions proven to improve asthma outcomes. The program also strengthened collaboration between health departments, clinicians, schools and families that ensure that patients receive the information and care they need to stay healthy.

While the number of people living with asthma has increased, research shows that people with asthma are better managing their disease. Through its Controlling Childhood Asthma, Reducing Emergencies (CCARE) initiative, CDC has set a goal of preventing half a million asthma related hospitalizations and emergency department visits among children. To accomplish this for all asthma patients, CDC has also developed and worked to raise awareness of EXHALE, a set of six key asthma control strategies to better control asthma and decrease healthcare costs.

The events of last year also demonstrated how fragile the asthma prevention infrastructure can be. On April 1, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services virtually eliminated CDC's NACP as part of broader reductions and restructuring efforts, creating immediate uncertainty for states and threatening years of progress. While the program was ultimately restored and level funded in FY26, the disruption highlighted how essential stable federal support is for state asthma programs.

Communities across the country rely on the NACP to help people manage their asthma and avoid life-threatening emergencies. Without strong and stable funding, many state asthma programs would cease to exist – putting more people at risk of unmanaged asthma, preventable emergency visits and avoidable hospitalizations.

As you consider the FY27 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, we strongly urge you to strengthen funding for the NACP to \$40 million so that more states and communities can benefit from these lifesaving, cost-effective interventions.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Respiratory Care
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American College of Chest Physicians
American Lung Association
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Big Cities Health Coalition
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
Health Resources in Action
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Center for Healthy Housing
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Society for Public Health Education
Trust for America's Health