HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

	FY 2013	President's 2014 Budget	FY 2014 Suggested	FY 2014 Senate Mark
Healthy Communities	$0	$0	$27,000,000	$0
Community Transformation Grants	$146,340,000	$146,340,000	N/A	$290,000,000

*The Healthy Communities program was de-funded in FY 12 and has now become incorporated into the new funding for the larger Community Transformation Grants program.

Currently all states are grossly underfunded to address the epidemic of chronic diseases through prevention and control. Additional resources will allow for the support of the Healthy Communities Program in more states and communities. CDC will continue to build a comprehensive program for improving nutrition, increasing physical activity, and decreasing tobacco use in order to reduce the burden of diabetes, obesity, and asthma in communities, worksites, and schools. Concerned citizens working in partnership locally can take action local action to solve specific health problems that supports people in becoming and staying healthier. The new Community Transformation Grant Program provides much needed support in many states and communities, these efforts would be greatly enhanced with a return of the Healthy Communities Program.

Basic Facts About Chronic Disease

- In the United States, 7 of 10 deaths and most serious illness, disability, and health care costs are attributable to chronic conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and asthma.
- Underlying these serious conditions are risk behaviors such as physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use. People who eliminate these behaviors greatly reduce their risk for illness and death due to chronic diseases.

Cost of Chronic Diseases to the American Health Care System

- Chronic disease accounts for more than 75% of the nation's health care costs. Efforts to promote prevention could reduce annual healthcare spending by $100 billion to $125 billion per year.

Chronic Diseases are Preventable and Controllable

- Although common and costly, many chronic diseases are preventable. Adopting healthy behaviors such as eating nutritious foods, being physically active and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or control the effects of these diseases and reduce associated health care costs and the unnecessary and costly burden to society and families. Healthy people who are supported in a healthy environment are more productive and can demonstrate return on investment and cost savings to business and government.

CDC's Healthier Communities Program

CDC and national organizations groups provided support to communities to implement innovative, integrated, evidence-based interventions by working with schools, healthcare providers, worksites, and community leaders to encourage physical activity, healthy eating, and tobacco-free choices in order to reduce the burden of diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and asthma. This was accomplished through "mini-grants", extensive technical assistance, and primarily through energizing local groups to lead their community. Communities routinely realized a 4-1 ROI with this program. Many of these communities continue to improve long after funding has stopped. Examples of policy and environmental changes that can result from these interventions include increasing access to and use of attractive and safe locations for engaging in physical activity; revising school food contracts to include more fruits and vegetables and whole grain foods; and encouraging sidewalks and crossing signals in neighborhoods to make them more pedestrian-friendly.

Support for CDC's Healthy Communities Program can reach a large number of communities. With an appropriation of $27 million, CDC could reach more communities with support and mentorship to rapidly spread effective strategies to combat chronic diseases across our nation.

*For more information visit www.cdc.gov/healthycommunitiesprogram

Contact: Amy Souders, Cornerstone Government Affairs
Phone: (202) 488-9500
Email: Amy@cgagroup.com