



FUNDING COMPREHENSIVE VECTOR CONTROL

ISSUE: The emergence and spread of West Nile virus, Chikungunya, and Zika highlighted our nation's insufficient preparation for responding to these threats. Our understanding of these and future diseases require support for continued research, development and evaluation of tools to combat them. Training and research for vector-borne disease surveillance and control programs must be upgraded to mitigate the future impacts of additional exotic vector-borne diseases.

Background: In the past 20 years, the United States has seen the introduction and spread of West Nile virus, Chikungunya, and Zika, in addition to the continued impact of Dengue. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Vector Borne Diseases (DVBD) obtains and allocates funding for state, county, and district or municipal mosquito control programs to help support operations, build infrastructure, and develop improved vector control tools which play a crucial role in the fight to protect public health.

Discussion: Since 2000, annual Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grants from the CDC have provided money to 50 states and six large cities to detect, monitor, and control over 20 mosquito-borne and tick-borne diseases. However, the funds directed to be used by individual mosquito districts for control operations was insufficient. FY 2016 and FY 2017 saw supplemental federal funds to support expanded ELC grants for arbovirus surveillance, and particularly operational control activities. These supplemental funds allowed states to prevent, rather than merely react to vector-borne disease outbreaks by controlling the vectors themselves – and helped saved lives. These funds also allowed the CDC to contract with the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) to develop and implement a comprehensive training program to significantly enhance professional development in the knowledge of emerging vector-borne diseases and their control. Continued support of this skilled vector control workforce and growth of innovation in the field of vector control is essential to effectively and efficiently respond to any future vector-borne disease threats. Increased funding will allow the CDC to continue to support the development of new technology and evaluation of products through the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE). These RCE's allow for strong collaboration between local vector control agencies, state health departments, and universities to discover and develop new techniques to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the field in real time.

The Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act (H.R.345) has been introduced in the House by Representative Soto of Florida. This legislation reauthorizes the MASH Act which was designed to authorize federal funds for local governments to protect communities from mosquitoes and other disease vectors, and represents a platform for building a sustainable capacity to meet future imported exotic diseases. The SMASH language is also included in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act of 2019 (H.R. 269) introduced by Representative Eshoo from California.

The USDA IR-4 Public Health Pesticides Program (PHP) provides critical assistance to meet regulatory requirements for bringing new control tools to market, expansion of allowed use patterns, and protection of existing tools from regulatory or other challenges.

NEEDED ACTIONS:

- **Pass and fully fund all provisions of H.R. 345 or H.R. 269 Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act. This amounts to \$130 million per year, FY 2020 -FY 2024.**
- **Support the continuation of the IR-4 Public Health Pesticides Program (PHP) of \$350,000 to provide critical assistance for supporting vector control, including regulatory and other support needed to maintain public health and welfare.**
- **Increase the funding for the Division of Vector Borne Diseases (DVBD) to \$90 million for the suppression of mosquito- and other vector-transmitted diseases.**