

Support FY 2020 funding for the CDC's State Violence and Injury Prevention Program

Sending Office: Honorable Gwen Moore
Sent By: Chris.Goldson@mail.house.gov

March 6, 2019

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in asking the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies to support funding in FY 2020 for the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (Core SVIPP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Core SVIPP is the only program of its kind in the U.S. that uses research-based evidence to identify the most effective strategies to prevent injuries caused by accidents or violence, domestic violence, falls, motor vehicle collisions, homicides, and prescription drug misuse.

Unfortunately, due to a history of stagnant or insufficient funding, the program currently **only operates in the following 23 states**: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

That means that this federal program does not reach states where nearly 160 million Americans live. The issues of injury and violence is a national problem and additional funding in FY 2020 will allow more states to participate, expanding the program's impact and providing additional resources to help save lives in our communities.

Additionally, the letter asks appropriators to maintain language from the FY 2019 appropriations bill that would encourage the CDC to allow states the flexibility to use funds to address injury and violence priorities that they identify. Unfortunately, CDC has narrowed the focus of the Core SVIPP program to just four areas: motor vehicle injury prevention, youth sports concussion and traumatic brain injury, child abuse and neglect, and sexual violence and intimate partner violence. While these are important areas of work, this restriction unnecessarily hinders states ability to address injury and violence prevention needs outside the CDC's four areas of focus. This language would allow states to utilize CDC funds outside the four focus areas, including for suicide prevention which is an emerging area of need. The letter would effectively continue that language with small revisions.

If you have any questions or are interested in signing this letter, please contact Chris Goldson (chris.goldson@mail.house.gov) in my office. The deadline for this letter is Close of Business, March 26, 2019.

Sincerely,
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

March XX, 2019

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies funding bill, we respectfully request you provide \$20 million for the Core State Violence and Injury Prevention Program (Core SVIPP) within the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control account. This long overdue increase will ensure that more states can participate in this vital program. We also ask that you continue language encouraging the CDC to allow states to utilize CORE SVIPP funds to address pressing suicide prevention and other state determined needs.

We need to invest in efforts to prevent injuries and violence which are the leading cause of death during the first four decades of life, regardless of gender, race or socioeconomic status. According to the CDC, every three minutes a person dies from a preventable injury or act of violence including domestic violence, falls, motor vehicle collisions, homicides, prescription drug misuse, and suicide. Together, nearly 231,000 deaths, 32 million emergency room visits, and 3 million hospitalizations totaling \$670 billion in health care costs, lost pay and productivity are attributable to injuries and violence each year. Suicide alone represent \$69 billion of those costs. The Core SVIPP is the only federal program of its kind that uses research-based evidence to identify the most effective strategies to prevent injuries caused by accidents or violence. States use this funding stream to build, strengthen, and maintain their injury and violence prevention programs with a focus on collecting and analyzing data, designing, implementing and evaluation programs, providing technical support and training, and affecting public behavior and knowledge on these issues.

Unfortunately, only 23 states currently receive Core SVIPP funding. An appropriation of \$20 million would help support existing states while allowing additional states to join the program, creating a truly national program.

We also appreciate inclusion of language in the FY 2019 appropriations bill that encouraged the CDC to allow states to use their Core SVIPP funds on their greatest injury and prevention needs, rather than just the four target areas selected by CDC. It is critical to maintain this language and continue to affirm to CDC the need to allow our state and local partners to use funds to also respond to areas of need that they identify.

One area that states are paying rising attention to is suicide prevention. With suicide rising to 1.4 million attempts and over 47,000 deaths in 2017, the highest rates recorded, Core SVIPP funds could help states design and implement targeted suicide prevention efforts based on the demographics and challenges unique to that state. By including language pressing CDC to allow greater funding flexibility, States would be able to use Core SVIPP program to help strengthen their suicide prevention and other injury and violence prevention priorities without the need to create a new program or bureaucracy.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

 [Manage Your Subscriptions](#)



e-Dear Colleague version 2.0



[Contact eDC Support](#)

e-Dear Colleagues are intended for internal House use only.