Additional detail is available now that the House Appropriations Committee has approved the federal fiscal year 2020 bill for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, which substantially increases funding for Health and Human Services, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The bill funds CDC at $8.3 billion CDC, or $921 million above 2019 and level with the record-setting amount provided in 2018.

In addition to the bill including $100 million for the Data Transformation effort that APHL is pursuing in a collaborative effort with CSTE, the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS) and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), there is extremely helpful language on this activity in the committee report:

Public Health Data Surveillance/IT Systems Modernization.—
The Committee acknowledges that CDC has taken important steps to modernize its surveillance infrastructure through the implementation of its Surveillance Strategy, but recognizes that more needs to be done to ensure that CDC can develop and deploy world-class data and analytics that scale rapidly in emergencies, provide predictive capacity to identify emerging threats, reduce burden on public health partners who are reporting data and ensure bidirectional information flows. The nation’s public health data systems are antiquated, rely on obsolete surveillance methods, and are in dire need of security upgrades. Lack of interoperability, reporting consistency, and data standards leads to errors in quality, timeliness, and communication. In addition, CDC must take steps to ensure that the public health workforce possesses and maintains state of the art data science skills needed to put the data to use through public health action. The Committee includes $100,000,000 for the first year of a multi-year initiative for CDC to lead the effort to improve public health data by providing support to Federal data modernization efforts including the national Center for Health Statistics, State, local, tribal and territorial partners, and to work with academic and private sector partners to innovate new tools and approaches for maximizing the public health impact of the data that keeps our communities safe and healthy.

Additional details on CDC increases include:

- $49 million for IRD, including $10 million for AFM,
- $202 million for NCHSTTP, including $140 million for the HIV/AIDS initiative, $15 million for infectious diseases work on the opioid response, and $10 million each for STI prevention and control and TB prevention and treatment,
- $25 million for NCEZID, including $6 million for food safety, $5 million for both AR and VBD, $2.5 million for AMD, and $1 million for HABs,
- $107 million for PHSS, including $100 million for data transformation, and $5 million for public health workforce,
- $34 million for NCEH, including $5 million for environmental tracking, $5 million each for lead, climate, and PFAS/PFOS, and $4 million for newborn screening,
- $49 million for the Injury Center, including a continuation of $476 for opioid response,
- $25 million for Global Health, the entire increase directed to Global Disease Detection,
- $25 million for PHPR, the entire increase directed to PHEP,
$50 million for the ID Rapid Response Reserve Fund.

In addition to CDC, the bill provides funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), which also received an increase of $5.6 million in the Heritable Disorders portion of the Maternal and Child Health program.

The bill now goes to the Senate, and we will report on those details as they emerge.

Federal Authorization Update

On May 2, 2019, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-40) and Congressman Mike Simpson (ID-02), were joined by Congresswomen Katherine Clark (MA-05) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (WA-03) for the introduction of the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act. The press statement on the bill can be found here; the text of H.R. 2507 will be available soon. APHL looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsors to advance the bill.

HHS Operating Divisions Leadership Update

No additional information to report.

REGULATION

No additional information to report.