



# EPIDEMIOLOGY & LABORATORY CAPACITY FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## ESSENTIAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY RESPONSE

### ELC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

For nearly a quarter-century, the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) cooperative agreement program has distributed funding to all 50 states, several large metro areas, and US territories and affiliates. This funding provides critical support to epidemiologists and laboratory scientists who are instrumental in discovering and responding to various food-, water- and vector-borne outbreaks. Despite its vital role in responding to the pandemic, annual funding levels are not adequate to maintain public health preparedness, which hinders response to public health emergencies.

The ELC program is critical to combatting infectious diseases, a need that has become more extreme as states and localities respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Significantly, the ELC program was successful in dispensing over \$40 billion in emergency funding to state, local and territorial health departments to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, ELC issued over \$238 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 funding for health departments to carry out critical core surveillance programs. View [CDC's state by state table](#), which dramatically illustrates the difference between the low levels of funds annually available to states to build and maintain capacity, compared to what was needed in the response. COVID-19 supplemental funding was frequently used for desperately-needed updates to equipment and data systems that were unaffordable with the low annual funding. Full funding will allow jurisdictions to maintain this improved capacity and address new threats.

Given the immense need for epidemiology and laboratory capacity grants, the ELC budget line should be increased by at least \$261 million—bringing total ELC annual funding to around \$500m—and funded through CDC's budget authority.

Applications for FY 2019\* ELC funding greatly exceeded the funds available; requests totaled more than \$493 million for Year 1, compared to the \$231 million awarded.

### ELC FUNDING GAPS\*

\* 2019 latest available numbers

#### Leadership



#### Food & Waterborne Diseases



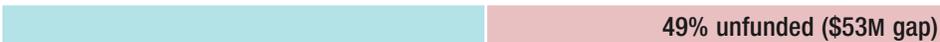
#### Vectorborne Diseases



#### Equipment & Supplies



#### Healthcare Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance



#### Personnel



#### Health Information Systems



Increase ELC budget by at least **\$261 million** for total annual funding of around **\$500 million**

#### Increased Funding Will Support:

Laboratory information management systems; integrated data systems that support both epidemiology and public health laboratories; electronic laboratory reporting, case reporting and health records; contracts to maintain surveillance systems and cloud data storage.

Epidemiologists, laboratory scientists and health information systems analysts.

Whole genome sequencing, lab reagents, PCR and MALDI/VITEK equipment and supplies.



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