

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Grants Funding Data Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: What is the purpose of the CDC Grant Funding Profiles?

A: CDC launched the CDC Grant Funding Profiles on February 17, 2011 to provide our partners and the public with more information on funding and other grants data. The profiles, which contain data starting with fiscal year (FY) 2010, provide quick access to information on CDC funding provided to recipients in states, the District of Columbia (DC), and U.S. territories and freely associated states to address issues of public health importance. These investments include funding provided to state and local health departments, universities, and other public and private agencies for a variety of public health programs.

Q: What updates did CDC make to the profiles for FY2020?

A: CDC updated the profiles in the following ways:

- The FY20 funding data and profiles have been added
- Funding categories and subcategories are based primarily on CDC's [FY20 CDC Operating Plan](#). Additional funding categories and subcategories also were included to capture FY20 COVID-19 supplemental funding, whether directly appropriated to CDC or through funding transfers from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and funds transferred from HHS for the Drug Free Communities Support program.
- All documentation for the profiles, such as "About the Data," has been updated as needed, based on the operating plan and inclusion of COVID-19 and opioid-related funding transferred to CDC.

Q: Were any changes made to the parameters of the data for FY2020?

A: Yes.

- The funding data are categorized by which CDC appropriation account was used to make the investment. The funding categories and subcategories used for the profiles are based primarily on CDC's operating plan for each year and may change over time. For FY20, funding categories and subcategories are based primarily on CDC's [FY20 CDC Operating Plan](#). Additional funding categories and subcategories also were included to capture FY20 COVID-19 supplemental funding, whether directly appropriated to CDC or through funding transfers from the Department of Health and Human Services, and funds transferred from HHS for the Communities Support program.

Q: What are the major factors that account for differences in funding among jurisdictions?

A: These data are useful in describing in general the variation in CDC funding by jurisdiction and funding category. However, caution should be used in interpreting these variations. Several of the reasons for variations are

- Congressional authorizations, appropriations, and directives
- Eligible grantees do not apply for every funding opportunity
- Most federal funding is awarded via a competitive or merit-based process. Not all who apply are funded for every program.
- Some funding is allocated according to a pre-set formula (such as per capita allocation or a need-based funding allocation). Sometimes these allocation formulas are specified by law. For example, the allocation of funds under the Vaccine for Children program is mandated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.
- CDC has many different grant types with varying application eligibility and award criteria, such as population disease burden, per capita formula-based, competitive based on proposal merit, non-competitive.
- Awards made to an entity will typically reflect the geographic location of the entity's official business or billing address such as a State capitol for a State government award. The awards therefore will not reflect the actual geographic application of the funds by the grantee in carrying out the purpose of the grant.
- CDC makes awards to various national associations that carry out national public health programs that have nationwide impact; however, the awards will be reflected in the geographic jurisdiction of the association's main office.

Q: What factors should be taken into consideration when comparing data across fiscal years?

A: Several reasons for variations in the funding profiles across years are (1) the amounts, purpose, and focus of funding provided by Congress each year can vary, and (2) changes in national and/or CDC/ATSDR priorities and strategies due to factors such as urgent and emerging health threats and changes in population health status and needs. There also may be variation across years due to changes in where a program/activity resides in CDC's organizational and budget structure. Funding sources linked to a particular program/activity also vary year-to-year. Therefore, it is possible for a multi-year project to fall into one funding category or sub-category one year and into another the next. Funding categories may be added or deleted as CDC's budget changes year to year). This makes 1:1 comparisons of one year's set of projects to another year's set of projects under each category or sub-category a challenge. In addition, changes in CDC methodology for categorizing and presenting the data may vary by year, as described in the tool's About the Data section.

Q: Through what mechanisms does CDC award grants?

A: There are three mechanisms for awarding grant funds: Block Grants, Mandatory Grants, and Competitive/Discretionary grants. Each grantee receives allocated funds by formula through Block Grants. Mandatory Grants are grants that a Federal agency is required by statute to award if the recipient submits an acceptable State Plan or application and meets the eligibility and compliance requirements of the statutory and regulatory provisions of the grant program. Discretionary/competitive grants are grants that permit the Federal Government, according to specific authorizing legislation, to exercise judgment ("discretion") in selecting the applicant/recipient organization, through a competitive grant process. More information on the grants process is available on [CDC's Grants site](#).

Q: How does the competitive grants process work?

A: CDC receives tens of thousands of proposals in response to competitive funding opportunities each year for health, research, education, and training projects, of which approximately 25% are funded. The grant funding process is highly competitive and involves multiple steps, which are described in CDC's [Grant Life Cycle Overview](#). Guides to writing grant applications are widely available on the Internet. For example, visit CDC's [Grant Writing Guidance and Tips webpage](#).

Q: Where can I find more information on CDC's budget and funding opportunities?

A: More information on the CDC budget and grantee information can be found on the following sites:

- [CDC Budget](#)
- [CDC Funding](#)
- **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Announcements on [Grants.gov](#) (search on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)**

