

What's New at the American Public Health Association Student Assembly February 2005

The Proposed Federal 2006 Budget

President Bush's 2006 budget has prodded much controversy over cutting 99 programs and decreasing funding for 55. Purportedly these measures will have saved the federal government \$15.3 billion. As public health professionals we are naturally curious a) which programs have been either eliminated or experienced a decrease in federal funding and b) how does this affect public health outcomes?

According to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/pdf/savings.pdf> the following is a list of DHHS programs that are eliminated in the 2006 federal budget:

- National Youth Sports
- Community Food and Nutrition
- JOLI (Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals)
- Early Learning Opportunities Program
- Emergency Medical Service for Children
- The Early Reading Program
- Project Earmarks funded by the Congress at the CDC
- Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant at the CDC
- Direct Service Worker Grants
- HRSA awards earmarked to specific projects and locations
- Healthy Community Access Program
- State Planning Grant Program
- Trauma Care Program
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program at HRSA
- The Real Choice Systems Change

The following is a list of DHHS programs that will experience a decrease in funding over the next fiscal year:

- Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Payment Program (-\$98 million)
- Health Professions training grants at HRSA (-\$286 million)
- Rural Health Programs (-\$114 million)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Best Practices (-\$53 million)
- State, Local and Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Grants (-\$138 million)

The descriptions of funded and eliminated budgets merit some discussion. Firstly, many programs were eliminated because they provide duplicate services as other programs. This is a reasonable explanation. However, many other programs were eliminated because the Bush Administration had no data as to how well the programs were run, or how well they worked. Instead of cutting these programs, like Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals why didn't the Bush Administration provide oversight? It is also strange that President Bush believes that the \$724 million Maternal and Child Health Block Grant will replace the Emergency Medical

Service for Children, the Trauma Care Program as well as many others. The Bush Administration's explanation of poorly run or inadequately supervised programs begs us to inquire what is being done to increase oversight for fiscal year 2006? The fiscal budget is a public document and may be accessed at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/pdf/savings.pdf>.

Announcements:

2005 APHA 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition

The American Public Health Association Student Assembly (APHA-SA), previously known as the Public Health Student Caucus (PHSC), is excited about the 2005 APHA Meeting & Exposition, which will be held November 5-9, 2005 in New Orleans LA. The theme of 2005 APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition is "Evidence-Based Policy and Practice."

The APHA-SA seeks abstracts from students in public health or related fields on any topic. Student papers should reflect work undertaken while in school, either undergraduate or graduate programs. Abstracts will be accepted online only through the APHA Web site at <http://www.apha.org/meetings>.

Deadlines for submission vary according to each Section, SPIG, or Caucus. The APHA-SA deadline is February 8, 2005. Also, the APHA-SA will send out a call for late-breakers in May. Early submission is strongly encouraged by APHA-SA. Abstracts will be submitted to a blind peer-review process, and ranked for quality, topic applicability, and relation to overall APHA-SA priorities. Individual contributions to APHA-SA will be considered for poster and oral sessions. Abstract submitters will be notified on May 31, 2005 whether their abstract was selected, if submitted by the February 8th deadline. If you have any questions, please email Hossein Bahrami, Chair Abstracts Sub-Committee, at abstracts@phsc.org

Feedback Wanted:

The *American Journal of Public Health* (AJPH) editorial board and editors are planning another session at the 2005 APHA Annual Meeting and are curious about what students would want to learn from a session from the editors/editorial board. A similar session at the 2004 APHA Annual Meeting provided information on moving from poster and presentation to publication. Any feedback on what students would like to hear at this year's session from a session would be very helpful. If you have any comments, please e-mail Kusuma Madamala, APHA-SA representative to the AJPH editorial board, at kusuma_madamala@ama-assn.org.

Plans for Cover the Uninsured Week 2005 are underway!

Cover the Uninsured Week 2005 will take place April 30-May 8, 2005. The defining activity of the 2005 effort will be town hall meetings at which proposals for achieving affordable and stable health care coverage for all Americans will be discussed. It is our hope that Cover the Uninsured Week forums will inform our nation's leaders, including elected officials, about policy proposals to expand coverage to the uninsured and to make coverage more affordable and stable for those who have it. These town hall meetings will reach a large audience by generating news reports as well as discussions on opinion pages, and on radio and television programs. We have attached a template listserv to help you share this information with your members.

The decision to mount Cover the Uninsured Week 2005 was greatly influenced by the success of Cover the Uninsured Week 2004, resulting from your hard work and the work of others like you. We would like to express our gratitude for your role in making Cover the Uninsured Week 2004 a success, and we hope to work with you again in 2005.

We are looking forward to a significant effort in 2005, and we will be in touch with you soon with more information about Cover the Uninsured Week 2005. In the meantime, please visit <http://www.CoverTheUninsuredWeek.org> for updates on this year's effort.

The Action Committee Has a New NPHW Toolkit!

Action Committee Co-Chair Jay Bhatt has put together a new and improved toolkit that includes tips on how to conduct events during the 2005 National Public Health Week (NPHW). Jay has named various and sundry items like film suggestions, lunch discussions and school poster presentation contests. The toolkit is not posted yet but it is expected to be shortly. Visit APHA's NPHW site at <http://www.apha.org/nphw/05-letter.htm>.

The 4th Annual Global AIDS Week of Action February 28 – March 4, 2005

The AIDS pandemic is the most devastating crisis in the history of human health, with 8,200 deaths and 15,000 new infections each day. NOW is the time for the health community to respond! For more information e-mail Saranya Kurapati at skurapati@phrusa.org

Events:

Global AIDS in the Arts

- ⌘ Visual Depiction of AIDS, Symbolic Solidarity, Film Screenings, Candlelight Vigils

From Bench to Bedside

- ⌘ Politics of HIV/AIDS Research, Microbicides, Drugs, Generics, Vaccines

Bridging the Local/Global Disconnect

- ⌘ Local AIDS Advocacy, Students Teaching AIDS to Students Program (STATS)

Global AIDS and Human Rights

- ⌘ The Right to Health, Gender Inequalities, Children, Marginalized Populations, Rights of Health Professionals

Taking Action!!!

- ⌘ AIDS Advocacy Campaigns, Local Media, In-District Meetings with Policy Makers

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