

Sec. 1 SHORT TITLE: “Coordinated Environmental Health Network Act of 2004”

Sec. 2 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

Sec. 3 AMMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT

TITLE XXIX – Coordinated Environmental Health Network

Sec. 2900 DEFINITIONS

Sec. 2901 ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATED AND STATE HEALTH TRACKING NETWORKS.

(a) COORDINATED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK

- (1) **ESTABLISHMENT:** Within 3 years, HHS shall establish and operate the Coordinated Network, building upon and coordinating among existing data and surveillance infrastructure, ensuring public access to information on chronic diseases and environmental factors, establishing and coordinating state networks, providing technical assistance to support State Networks to build necessary capacity and infrastructure, and developing minimum standards and procedures for data collection and report for the State Networks.
- (2) **REPORTS:** Shall produce an annual report that analyzes incidence, prevalence and trends of chronic conditions and relevant environmental and other factors; identifies data gaps; and provides recommendations regarding high risk populations, public health concerns, response and prevention strategies, and additional needs.
- (3) **RAPID RESPONSE SERVICE:** Shall work to develop and implement strategies for response and conduct investigations into high incidence and prevalence of chronic conditions or environmental hazards or exposures.
- (4) **DATA COLLECTION:** Shall include list and definitions of priority chronic conditions; relevant environmental exposures; list of relevant behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and other risk factors; procedures for complete and timely collection and reporting of data; procedures for dissemination of data to the public and researchers, and reporting to the Coordinated Health Tracking Network; standards and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of at least 7 regional biomonitoring laboratories.

(b) STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORKS.

- (1) **GRANTS:** Establishes grants to be awarded to eligible states, local governments, territories and Indian tribes for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of State Networks in accordance with minimum standards and procedures.
- (2) **SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE:** Coordinated Network shall assist grantees in the establishment, maintenance, and operation of State Networks.
- (3) **REQUIREMENTS:** Grantees shall establish an environmental health network that will provide complete tracking of incidence, prevalence, and trends of priority chronic conditions and environmental factors, identify chronic conditions and environmental factors that disproportionately impact low income and minority communities, uphold protection of confidentiality, provide public access to data collected, provide for collection of exposure data through biomonitoring, establish the State’s priorities within minimum standards and develop plan for coordination of data and surveillance infrastructure, appoint a lead environmental health department or agency, appoint an Environmental Health Investigator, establish rapid response protocols, establish an advisory committee to ensure local community input, and recruit and train public health officials to continue to expand the network.
- (4) **LIMITATION:** No more than 10% of funds may be used for administrative costs.
- (5) **APPLICATION:** To seek a grant a state must submit an application that meets standards set by the Secretary and contains all necessary assurances.

(c) PILOT PROJECTS.

- (1) **IN GENERAL:** Beginning in 2005 pilot projects may be initiated.
- (2) **ACTIVITIES:** Pilot projects will be designed to develop State Network enhancements and programs to address local and regional concerns including the expansion of the network to include additional chronic diseases or environmental exposures, conducting investigations on local concerns, and carrying out of activities determined by the state, locality, territory, or tribe and the Secretary.
- (3) **RESULTS:** The Secretary may consider results of pilot projects for inclusion in the Coordinated Network.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

- (1) **ESTABLISHMENT:** Within 3 months after enactment an Advisory Committee shall be established.
- (2) **COMPOSITION:** The Advisory Committee will be comprised of 16 Members with 3 year terms shall be established. It will include at least 9 members that have experience in the area of public health, the environment, epidemiology, and biomonitoring.
- (3) **REPORTING:** The Advisory Committee will deliver an annual report to Congress on the progress of the Coordinated Network.
- (4) **HEARINGS**
- (5) **DUTIES:** The Advisory Committee will provide input for reports and recommendations for improvement, assist in development of minimum standards and procedures, and provide ongoing public input.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS:** \$100,000,000 in 2005, and such sums for 2006-2009.

Sec. 2902 Increasing Public Health Personnel Capacity

(a) SCHOOLS OR PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

- (1) **GRANTS:** Beginning in 2005, grants shall be awarded to at least 5 accredited schools or programs of public health for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of centers of research and demonstration.
- (2) **ACTIVITIES:** Centers shall undertake research and development projects in at least one of the following areas: investigating causal connections between chronic conditions and environmental factors; increasing understanding of high incidence and prevalence and development of interventions when elevations occur; identifying additional chronic conditions and environmental factors to be added to the Network; improving translation of results into effective prevention; improving public workforce training in environmental epidemiology; and establishing links to state and Coordinated Health Networks to identify associations that warrant further study.
- (3) **REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE:** Eligibility requires a school or program of public health to: provide assurance that the school meets minimum requirements; protects privacy of public health information; and makes public findings and results.
- (4) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS:** \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

(b) JOHN H CHAFEE PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOLAR PROGRAM

- (1) **IN GENERAL:** Scholarships shall be awarded to students enrolled in schools of public health or medicine that meet the Secretary's eligibility requirements.
- (2) **AUTHORIZATION:** \$2,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

(c) APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

- (1) **IN GENERAL:** Cooperative agreement with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists to train and place fellows to enhance state and local epidemiology capacity in the areas of environmental health, chronic diseases, birth defects, and developmental disabilities.
- (2) **AUTHORIZATION:** \$2,500,000 for 2005, and such sums for 2006-2009.

Sec. 2903 General Provisions

(a) **INTERNAL MONITORING AND COORDINATION REGARDING CDC:** Primary responsibility for coordination placed in the Office of the Director at the CDC.

(b) **FUNDING THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS ACCOUNT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH IMPROVEMENT**

(c) **DATE CERTAIN FOR OBLIGATION OF APPROPRIATIONS**

(d) **COORDINATION WITH AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY**

(e) **COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PILOT PROJECTS THROUGH CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION:** Secretary shall integrate this title with all environmental health tracking pilot projects funded prior to the date of enactment.