



## *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*

- The *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* initiative is investing \$372.8 million over two years to fund 44 communities around the country: cities, counties, towns, rural areas, and tribes. These communities will implement obesity- and/or tobacco-prevention programs. These awards are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
- The health issues that communities are being funded to tackle—nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, and exposure to tobacco smoke—are critical risk factors for chronic diseases, the leading causes of premature death and disability in the United States.
- The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health will receive an unprecedented \$32 million of the funding over a two-year period: \$16 million for obesity, physical activity and nutrition projects, and \$16 million for tobacco control and prevention projects.
- Obesity- and tobacco-related conditions not only threaten the nation's health, they also contribute to billions of dollars more in medical spending each year. Each year in the United States, tobacco use accounts for \$96 billion in direct medical expenses, and more than \$147 billion is spent treating obesity-related illnesses.
- Without aggressive efforts to prevent and control chronic diseases, the rise in U.S. health care costs from chronic disease will continue unchecked and an ever increasing number of Americans will continue to suffer from tobacco- and obesity-related illness.
- The community awards will support community-based work through tested programs and strategies that prevent chronic diseases and help Americans lead healthier lives.
- More than 50 million people nationwide (nearly one in six Americans) live in the funded communities.
- As part of the application process, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided communities with a menu for selecting which programs and practices to implement. The programs are based on proven and promising interventions.
- To ensure flexibility, local communities chose the best mix of policy changes and programs for their residents and also chose how best to implement these recommended interventions. This way, communities can respond to the unique health needs of their residents.
- To learn more about *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery> and <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/recovery>.

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