These health impacts threaten the patients and communities that our organizations serve. Broadly speaking, these impacts include increased spread of vector-borne diseases, degraded air quality from ozone pollution and wildfire smoke, hotter temperatures, extreme weather events and longer allergy seasons. Communities and states must have the resources necessary to understand specific current and anticipated health impacts of climate change, and take steps to protect the public's health.

The Climate and Health Program currently funds 16 states, two cities and three tribes (covering 50 percent of the U.S. population). Examples of the critical projects supported by this program include: the development of a vulnerability mapping tool in Massachusetts; a climate change and healthy homes curriculum for community health workers in Maryland; the identification of specific communities at greatest risk due to sea level rise in North Carolina; and, educational programs for rural elders on heat stress and for day-camp counselors on tick exposures in New Hampshire.

Increasing funding for this program to $15 million would serve two critical purposes. First, it would allow CDC to fund work in additional locations. Second, it would allow CDC to evaluate the existing grantees' work to identify and be able to share best practices with communities nationwide. Given public health resource constraints, evaluating existing programs and broadly sharing lessons learned is a commonsense step that can help save lives across the nation.

Americans today experience negative health impacts due to climate change. Further investment in the Climate and Health Program will help communities across the country better prepare and protect their residents from the many health threats we are already experiencing due to climate change. Thank you for considering our recommendation and we look forward to working with you throughout the appropriations process.

Sincerely,