

PROTECT GEORGIA

PROTECT NIH FUNDING

National Institutes of Health (NIH) research saves lives. It helps prevent and treat cancer, obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Half of U.S. adults suffer from one or more chronic diseases.

NIH research helps the economy. Every \$1 in NIH funding generates about \$2.21 in local economic growth. NIH-supported research adds \$69 billion to our annual GDP and supports 7 million jobs.

But funding for NIH research is threatened. Inflation and sequestration have cost the NIH more than \$6 billion in purchasing power since 2004. Less funding for research means:

- Slowdowns in developing new cancer drugs and finding effective strategies for preventing chronic diseases.
- The United States could lose its position as a world leader in science and technology. Scientific competitors like China are currently increasing their investments in research.
- Fewer jobs in every state in the nation and the loss of promising researchers to other career paths.

NIH FUNDING BENEFITS GEORGIA

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) pumps millions of dollars into Georgia's economy and creates necessary medical research jobs.

Georgia received \$517 million NIH dollars in 2017, supporting 1,206 research projects.

This year, Society of Behavioral Medicine members received NIH funding for:

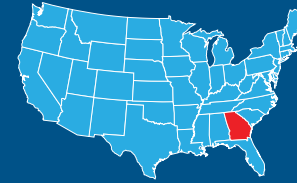
- A smartphone app to help HIV-positive individuals adhere to their medication regimens. The program has already proven effective with patients in urban locations, and adapting it to overcome the barriers of geographic isolation, transportation, stigma and confidentiality unique to rural contexts can help to address lower levels of HIV self-management in rural populations.
- Research into the social and psychological contributors to Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in African American populations. Stress has been shown to contribute to CKD risk factors like hypertension and diabetes, and this study seeks to determine whether social and psychological pressures can help explain why African Americans are more likely to experience Chronic Kidney Disease than whites.



Make NIH funding a national priority. Let's move forward—not backward.

The Society of Behavioral Medicine is a 2,400-member organization of scientific researchers, clinicians, and educators. They study interactions among behavior, biology, and the environment, and translate findings into interventions that improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

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PROTECT GEORGIA

PROTECT PREVENTION FUNDING

The health care system usually treats people after they become sick. More, however, can be done to *prevent* disease onset.

The nonpartisan Society of Behavioral Medicine and National Prevention Council are shifting the focus to prevention. The council's National Prevention Strategy seeks to "improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness."

We need more than a strategy. Prevention funding, like the U.S. Prevention and Public Health Fund, must be protected and increased. The public agrees—76% of Americans support increased funding for prevention programs.



The Prevention Fund supports services and programs that reduce tobacco use, increase physical activity, and improve nutrition, sparing millions of Americans the suffering and loss of life associated with obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and other preventable diseases. But more must be done—such preventable diseases continue to cause 70% of U.S. deaths and cost \$1.3 trillion in treatment costs and lost productivity every year. **Lives—and dollars—can be saved through prevention.**

Protect prevention funding—American lives depend on it.

86% of America's health care dollars are spent treating preventable chronic conditions—yet only 3% of health care dollars go toward prevention.

GEORGIA NEEDS PREVENTION

Many Georgia adults suffer from preventable chronic conditions:

- 30% are obese.
- 349,000 get diagnosed with cancer annually.
- 11% have diabetes.
- 36% have high blood pressure.

The U.S. Prevention Fund is helping!

Statewide the fund is improving access to vaccines, helping smokers quit, and ensuring more women get breast and cervical cancer screenings.

Local communities are benefiting too.

- Georgia has received \$995,000 from the Prevention Fund to improve the physical health of adults with serious mental illness. Grants to Cobb County Community Services will integrate primary and behavioral health services to improve access to care and prevention and reduce the per capita cost of care.
- The Georgia Department of Human Services received nearly \$400,000 to advance the implementation and dissemination of evidence-based falls prevention programs and strategies. These projects are designed to increase participation in evidence-based community programs to reduce falls, which are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries for those 65 years of age and older.