

President's Budget Falls Short on Investments Needed to End HIV as an Epidemic Posted 3/16/2023

The President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Proposal <u>includes \$9 billion to strengthen antibiotic R&D and stewardship and</u> calls for important new initiatives to eliminate hepatitis C within the next five years and to launch a National PrEP Program. But the proposal would cut or flat fund most HIV-related federal discretionary programs outside of the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative.

The National Hepatitis C Elimination Program in the United States would focus on accelerating availability of point--of--care diagnostic tests, providing broader access to hepatitis C medications through innovative payment models and expanded co-pay assistance under Medicare, and expanding implementation efforts, including by bolstering the hepatitis C workforce. The budget proposal calls for the new initiatives to be supported with multi-year, mandatory funding: \$11 billion over five years to eliminate hepatitis C and \$9 billion over 10 years to expand PrEP access. While mandatory funding is not subject to the annual appropriations process, it is more difficult to secure in Congress.

Under the proposal, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program across all parts would be level funded as would programs for HIV, STI and infections linked to opioid use at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. EHE funding for the RWP would increase by \$125 million, for the Bureau of Primary Health Care by \$15 million and for HIV prevention at CDC by \$90 million.

The proposal includes an \$811 increase (1.7%) for the National Institutes of Health's base with proposed flat funding for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Global health programs did not fare well with the president proposing a \$25 million cut to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief – the flagship U.S. global HIV program being recognized this year for saving 25 million lives over the last 20 years.

The viral hepatitis program at CDC would see a much needed \$11.5 million increase.

The president's budget is the first step in the annual appropriations process. IDSA and HIVMA will continue to advocate with Congress to ensure adequate funding for ID/HIV programs that people with HIV and their providers count on.

<u>Learn more</u> about HIVMA's 2023 Congressional advocacy priorities.